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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Earthquake deaths pass 33,000; Turkey probes contractors

By JUSTIN SPIKE, ZEYNEP BILGINSOY and SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANTAKYA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish authorities are targeting contractors allegedly linked with buildings that collapsed in the powerful Feb. 6 earthquakes as rescuers found more survivors in the rubble Sunday, including a pregnant woman and two children, in the disaster that killed over 33,000 people.

The death toll from the magnitude 7.8 and

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IN PALACIOS' TESTIMONY BEFORE US SENATE COMMITTEE

Crises on multiple fronts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

In fiscal year 2022 the Commonwealth spent beyond its appropriated general fund budget by approximately $38 million, based on numbers provided by the Department of Finance, according to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

» 'In FY 2022, CNMI overspent by $38M; Governor's Office alone overspent $1.4M just in Q1 of FY 2023'

In his testimony before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the "State of the U.S. Territories" last Thursday, Palacios also revealed that the Office of the Governor alone overspent its entire general fund budget for the year by over $1.4 million just in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023.

He said the CNMI is grappling with crises on multiple fronts: a government is fiscal disarray; an economy still

See CRISES on Page 4

Palacios

2 COVID-related EOs are renewed

Two executive orders that had been in place since 2020 that declares a State of Public Health Emergency for the entire CNMI due to the threat posed by COVID-19 have been renewed.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said his office has consulted with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, the COVID-19 Task Force, and other agencies, and believes renewal of Executive Orders 2020-04, as amended, and EO 2020-07, are warranted. Both executive orders were issued by then-governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Palacios issued the renew-

See 2 COVID on Page 4

RALLY FOR H.O.P.E.
People participating in the H.O.P.E. recovery center rally pose for a photo last Friday on the road in front of the Capital Hill Baseball Field to show support for the center by handing out petitions to keep it open. *Story on Page 7*
LEIGH GASES

Bribery charges filed against former DOC officer

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The federal court has indicted a former Department of Corrections officer on charges of bribery after allegedly receiving bribes from prisoners.

Former Department of Corrections officer Rainier Relado Deleon Guerrero has been charged with receiving a bribe and conspiracy to bribe a public official for allegedly receiving methamphetamine and $500 cash in exchange for smuggling a cell phone into prison.

According to the indictment

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The CK Smoke House & Salad in Chalan Kanoa has started serving breakfast.
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LIFE & STYLE
Rihanna began and ended the Super Bowl 57 halftime show hovering high above the field.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

$30K bail for man accused of burglarizing restaurant

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $30,000 cash bail on a man accused of burglarizing a local restaurant and punching one of the restaurant's owners in an effort to flee the scene.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $30,000 cash bail last Friday on Johny John Basiente, a man accused of breaking into the Guang-Zhou restaurant and punching one of its owners when he got caught.

Basiente, 36, is facing charges of burglary, three counts of vandalism, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Following his bail hearing, Basiente was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody. Basiente was ordered to return to court on Feb. 17, for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for March 6.

According to court documents, police responded to a theft-in-progress at the Guang-Zhou restaurant last Jan. 30,

At the scene, officers spoke with one of three victims, Qiwen Wu, who reported the incident.

Wu said that earlier that morning, she and her husband, along with her sister, were sleeping in their rooms on the third floor when they were awakened by their barking dogs.

Wu said she went to check her cameras and discovered that they had been turned off even though she claims she never turns them off.

As she was looking at the cameras, Wu's husband went down to the second floor where he found Basiente in one of the karaoke rooms hiding inside the restroom.

When Basiente tried to flee the scene, Wu, her husband, and her sister stopped him.

However, when Wu told him to wait for the police, Basiente allegedly punched Wu in the face, pulled her sister's hair, and pushed her husband and managed to flee the scene.

Outside the restaurant, Basiente allegedly picked up a piece of wood and tried to hit the victims with it before entering a white vehicle. The victims managed to get a photo of the car's license plate number.

At around 9:17am that same day, Wu was interviewed by investigators, telling them that Basiente had punched her about three or four times.

Basiente was arrested last Feb. 8 and he allegedly admitted to breaking into the restaurant despite having a previous court order that directs him to stay away from the establishment.

Basiente is a habitual offender with criminal felonies dating back to 2006.

NMC-CREES conducts food safety training

The Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, in partnership with the University of Idaho, recently provided food safety training for farmers and producers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The 18 participants learned about the importance of food safety, how to identify potential hazards in food, and the key food safety practices to prevent foodborne illnesses.

Eighteen participants from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were able to learn about why food safety is important, how to identify potential hazards in food, and the key food safety practices to prevent foodborne illnesses, which was conducted by the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, in partnership with the University of Idaho. NMC

Presenting alongside NMC-CREES Agroforestry and Food & Nutrition Security extension agent Jesse Deleon Guerrero and professor/state program and food science leader Dr. Zaidul Sarker and also University of Idaho assistant professor & extension consumer food-safety specialist Dr. Jang Ho Kim and Food Technology Center director Joshua Bevan.

"The ultimate goal of the food safety training was successfully achieved by the NMC-CREES team," Kim said.

Representatives from the Garapan Public Market, Department of Lands of Natural Resources' Division of Agriculture, Tinian Slaughterhouse, Tinian Cattle Rancher Association, Paeda's Local Product & Produce, and Chugai Farms were present at the training.

"It was a very useful workshop for underserved CNMI communities in food safety education and training to address common food safety issues," Sarker said.

CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Agriculture Extension Agent and Specialty Crop Block Grant Program coordinator Charles Aiseam appreciated the training services provided by NMC-CREES.

"They taught us essential skills needed to ensure the safe handling and preparation of food for our island community," Aiseam said.

Chugai Farms sales manager Dana Calvo also thanks NMC-CREES for sharing this knowledge with the community.

"This food safety training that was generously provided by NMC-CREES encourages the CNMI business community to continue to run their food production businesses with customer safety at the forefront," Calvo said.

For more information on the programs and services NMC-CREES provides, visit crees.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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DPL lifts the beach concession permit moratorium for Saipan

The Department of Public Lands announced yesterday that it will lift the moratorium on the issuance of temporary beach concession permits for the island of Saipan and will be accepting applications effective immediately.

According to a news release from the Office of the Governor, the lifting of this moratorium will allow DPL to authorize interested individuals to utilize designated areas adjacent to boundary corners of hotels or within the vicinity, to the perimeter boundaries of the public lands for commercial activities involving motorized and non-motorized water crafts.

"Up to 20 permits will be issued per year due to limited space and safety reasons. The number of permits may be reduced if the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Resource Management or other CNMI and federal governments determine that the marine sports activities cause an impact on marine life species and/or their habitats are disrupted, harmed or destroyed resulting from such activities," it stated. ***(Office of the Goverbor)***

But places moratorium on Saipan agri grazing permits

The Department of Public Lands is temporarily suspending the acceptance and/or processing of applications for agricultural and grazing permits for subsistence purposes on public land, effective Feb. 10, 2023. This moratorium affects only those applying for AGPs on the island of Saipan.

Beach concession and agriculture and grazing permits are temporary and are renewed annually provided that the permittee is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit, DPL regulations and other regulatory agencies. Review the DPL Temporary Occupancy Agreement regulations under NMIAC §145-70-210: http://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/admincode/T145/T145-70.pdf

For more information, visit the DPL website at www.dpl.gov.mp. DPL can also be reached at (670) 234-3751, via email at dpl@dpl.gov.mp, and is located on the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. ***(PR)***

Bermudes will be named DPS chief; Rayphand is new OVR chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang disclosed Friday that retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clement Bermudes will be appointed commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Apatang

Apatang said in an interview that they have yet to issue an appointment letter, but that it's going to be Bermudes who will be the DPS chief.

Bermudes is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Bermudes was recently promoted dean of the Northern Marianas College Academic Program and Services. He used to be the chair of NMC's Criminal Justice Department.

Apatang, who is currently the acting governor, said they are just waiting for Bermudes to come back and talk to him as he is on an off-island vacation.

Apatang said Bermudes is very qualified and has leadership.

"We need some changes in DPS," Apatang said.

In his inaugural speech last Jan. 9, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stated that DPS needs a major overhaul and that they will be appointing a DPS commissioner who has the extensive enforcement experience who will emphasize the training of officers, upgrading of investigative facilities, and re-establishing the cooperation the CNMI once had with federal agencies.

In related news, James M. Rayphand, who is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., has been appointed as director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

In a short biography released by the Office of the Governor yesterday, it said that Rayphand has more than 21 years of experience assisting people with disabilities and education. He was the deputy director, program manager, and executive director of NMPASI and served as the vice principal and acting principal at San Vicente Elementary School. He is currently the owner of JMRAY, LLC., and graduated from Hampden-Sydney College with a Bachelor of Arts in English and from the University of Guam with a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Administration & Supervision. Rayphand also has his Elementary School Teacher Certification in PRAXIS I and II.

KZMI 103.9 donates $5K to NMC Foundation

Radio station KZMI 103.9 recently donated $5,000 worth of radio advertisements to the Northern Marianas College Foundation to help with its marketing efforts for their upcoming Golf Open in March.

"We are always glad to be able to support the Northern Marianas College Foundation and its mission of improving higher education in the Commonwealth," KZMI 103.9 general manager Bob Webb said. "All of us at KZMI wish all players the best of luck this coming tournament."

For the first time, NMC's tournament will be a two-day event and will be held on March 18 and 19, 2023, on the east and west courses of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. The tournament fee for the 2023 golf open is $250.

Radio station KZMI 103.9 recently donated $5,000 worth of radio advertisements to the Northern Marianas College to help promote its upcoming Golf Open in March.

"KZMI's continuing support is important to us," NMC Foundation chair Ben Babauta said. "We are grateful for the radio station's contribution."

The tournament, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds for the college for its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. In the wake of the devastation and destruction of supertyphoon Soudelor and Yutu, the college has been aggressively seeking funds from all available sources to rebuild classrooms, offices, labs, and workforce spaces for the CNMI community. The foundation is seeking the CNMI private sector's support through fundraising events like the golf tournament.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the college with its rebuilding efforts can donate educational tax credit, cash, or in-kind contributions by visiting www.marianas.edu/golf or by contacting NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan at carla.sablan@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6780.

Golfers who would like to register for the upcoming tournament can also visit www.marianas.edu/golf. Only online payments are accepted for this upcoming golf open. ***(NMC)***

DPS' license system remains down

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has just notified the community that their license system remains down and members of the public have raised concerns about it.

"I was given a temporary certificate when I renewed my license but to date, I haven't received an update on when my ID would be issued. It's been over a week," said a concerned motorist.

The motorist, a 26-year-old, stated that she had renewed her driver's license over a week ago and she has yet to be told when it would be ready and it has become frustrating.

"If their system is down, I understand, but we need IDs like at the banks and it's more convenient for me to carry around a license instead of a passport. We should at least know when we can expect them," she said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles confirmed over the weekend that its Real ID driver's license system is undergoing maintenance.

DPS stated that while their system remains down, BMV will continue to issue temporary licenses.

This means that motorists applying for a Real ID or a non-Real ID driver's license will be issued a temporary certificate, which will be valid for 15 days. Once the Real ID machine maintenance is completed, those temporary certificates will be replaced with a regular Real ID or non-Real ID driver's license cards.

In the event the maintenance of the machines is not completed in 15 days, the temporary certificates can be updated free of charge by BMV, DPS said.

MVA: Board holdout was to ensure quorum

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has seen another member voluntarily step down last week. When asked about the holdout to resign, MVA said it was to ensure that the board retains a quorum.

Last week, MVA acting chair Gloria Cavanagh explained that one of the reasons some of the MVA's appointed board members chose to hold out on their resignation was to ensure that there was a quorum for the February regular board meeting.

"We had one position that was never filled last year. Then our chair stepped down in the beginning of January and board member Tom Liu turned in his resignation just recently. He wanted to make sure we made quorum because there's a lot of decisions that needed to be made. Meanwhile the other two, I'm still not sure what their plans are," she said.

Cavanagh, who is an elected board member, said that five board members are needed to make quorum.

"We are comprised of five governor-appointed members, and four elected positions by the general membership," she explained.

Gov. Arnold Palacios previously asked semi-autonomous agencies to ask for the voluntary resignation of their board and commission members, but to date, there have been a lot of holdouts who have yet to step down, one of which was the MVA board. Palacios stated that his administration is working on reappointments or replacing members with new appointees.

"We are putting together reappointments and new appointees for these positions. We will let everyone know," he said.

Man allegedly sexually abused two minors

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a man accused of sexually abusing two girls—an 11-year-old and a 13-year-old.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Joaquin Jacob Babauta Jr., for allegedly sexually abusing the two children.

Babauta, 33, is facing charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Following his bail hearing, Babauta was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on Feb. 17, for a preliminary hearing; he will be arraigned on March 6.

According to court documents, Babauta was arrested back in Jan. 15, after police received a sexual abuse of a minor report at a Kagman home.

The first victim, the 11-year-old, was brought to the Division of Youth Services' Child Protective Services nearly a week later, Jan. 23, where she was interviewed about the incident.

The victim stated in her interview that she had woken up at around 2am last Jan. 15, and found Babauta lying by her feet and touching her thigh. The victim said Babauta was using his other hand to touch another minor, the 13-year-old, who was sleeping in the same room.

After seeing this, the victim said she pushed Babauta off.

In a later interview with the 13-year-old, she stated that she woke up also at around 2am on Jan. 15 because she felt someone touching her private parts.

In an interview with Babauta, he told police that the last thing he remembers from Jan. 15, was blacking out from being drunk and waking up in the children's bedroom.

Babauta added that he told his relative to "beat him up" as he was so disgusted with himself.

The mothers of the victims stated that after the incident, both children have not been the same and that the once-outgoing girls have been keeping to themselves and are traumatized by the events of Jan. 15.

DEATHS

From Page 1

7.5 quakes that struck nine hours apart in southeastern Turkey and northern Syria rose to 33,185 and was certain to increase as search teams find more bodies.

As despair bred rage at the agonizingly slow rescues, the focus turned to assigning blame.

Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said 131 people were under investigation for their alleged responsibility in the construction of buildings that failed to withstand the quakes. While the quakes were powerful, many in Turkey blame faulty construction for multiplying the devastation.

Turkey's construction codes meet current earthquake-engineering standards, at least on paper, but they are rarely enforced, explaining why thousands of buildings toppled over or pancaked down onto the people inside.

Among those facing scrutiny were two people arrested in Gaziantep province on suspicion of cutting down columns to make extra room in a building that collapsed, the state-run Anadolu Agency said. The justice ministry said three people were arrested, seven others were detained and another seven were barred from leaving Turkey.

Two contractors held responsible for the destruction of buildings in Adiyaman were arrested Sunday at Istanbul Airport while trying to leave the country, the private DHA news agency and other media reported. One detained contractor, Yavuz Karakus, told DHA: "My conscience is clear. I built 44 buildings. Four of them were demolished. I did everything according to the rules."

Rescuers reported finding more survivors amid increasingly long odds. Thermal cameras were used as crews demanded silence to hear those trapped.

In hard-hit Hatay province, a 50-year-old woman who appeared badly injured was carried out by crews in the town of Iskenderun. Similar rescues in the province saved two other women, one of them pregnant, according to broadcasters TRT and HaberTurk.

HaberTurk showed a 6-year-old boy rescued from his wrecked home in Adiyaman. An exhausted rescuer removed his surgical mask and took deep breaths as several women cried in joy.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca posted a video of a young girl in a navy blue jumper who was found alive. "There is always hope!" he tweeted.

People pass as rescue workers continue to clear rubble from collapsed building in Antakya, Turkey, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023. AP

Rescuers in Antakya, elsewhere in Hatay province, pulled a man in his late 20s or 30s from the rubble, saying he was one of nine trapped in the building. He waved weakly as he was removed on a stretcher as workers applauded and chanted, "God is great!"

German and Turkish workers rescued an 88-year-old in Kirikhan, German news agency dpa reported. Italian and Turkish rescuers found a 35-year-old man in Antakya who appeared unscathed, private NTV television reported.

A child was freed overnight in the town of Nizip, in Gaziantep, state-run Anadolu Agency said, while a 32-year woman was found in a wrecked eight-story building in Antakya and asked for tea when she emerged, according to NTV.

Those were the rare exceptions.

Backhoes and bulldozers prepared a large cemetery in Antakya's outskirts as trucks and ambulances brought a steady stream of black body bags. Hundreds of graves were marked with simple wooden planks.

2 COVID

From Page 1

als last Feb. 2. The renewals shall remain in effect for 30 days from issuance. The Legislature received a copy of the renewals last Thursday.

E.O. 2020-04 declares a State of Public Health Emergency and State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures containing COVID-19.

E.O. 2020-07 orders the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office, through the COVID-19 Task Force, in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., to undertake necessary containment measures by means of the development of emergency directives to protect the health and safety of the public.

The governor noted in the Executive Order 2023-02 for renewal that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services renewed its COVID-19 public health emergency on Jan. 11, 2023, indicating that federal public health officials still see the pandemic as a threat to the public health.

He said COVID-19, through its variants, continues to pose a significant and imminent threat of harm to the people of the Commonwealth.

Palacios said an emergency declaration is still needed to ensure the containment of COVID-19 in the CNMI.

As the CNMI continues to open up itself to tourism from Asia markets, Palacios said the chance of COVID-19 once again spreading in the community is heightened.

The governor said that China is currently experiencing a surge of COVID-19 infections, with hundreds of millions of new infections.

China is a source of many tourists in the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BRIBERY

From Page 1

issued against Deleon Guerrero and two others, their case involved a conspiracy to smuggle a cellular phone with a charger into the Saipan prison for federal inmate Qiu Shuo in exchange for methamphetamine and $500 cash to be paid to Deleon Guerrero in January 2022.

Deleon Guerrero's co-defendants are Shou Qiu, also known as Ike, and Jiang Guang Zhang, aka Fat Brother.

The indictment stated that Qiu solicited the assistance of Deleon Guerrero from inside the prison, and Deleon Guerrero relied on his friend "GG" to coordinate with Qiu's friend, Zhang, to facilitate the transaction.

It added that GG allowed Deleon Guerrero to use GG's phone to communicate with Zhang. GG also communicated with Zhang on behalf of Deleon Guerrero, the indictment stated.

"After Zhang delivered methamphetamine and cash to Deleon Guerrero, GG reaped the reward of facilitating the exchange by smoking some of the methamphetamine with Deleon Guerrero" the indictment stated.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Qiu was previously charged in federal court with one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, methamphetamine, and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Qiu's trial is scheduled to begin on April 25, 2023. He is currently detained at the Saipan prison.

In a pending case in CNMI Superior Court, Zhang has been charged with two counts of trafficking, and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

CRISES

From Page 1

struggling from the impacts of COVID-19 and several unprecedented typhoon disasters that preceded the pandemic; an unstable environment for businesses and workers; dilapidated infrastructure and systems that are underprepared for the climate crisis; and a shrinking population as citizens leave the islands for greener pastures.

Palacios said preliminary assessments indicate that the Commonwealth has exhausted and overcommitted the more than $480 million received through the American Rescue Plan Act, with excess obligations totaling an estimated $86 million.

Palacios said his administration is still assessing the extent of the government's fiscal woes.

"But what is clear is that the current predicament cannot only be blamed on external forces—the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, or the typhoon disasters before that," he said.

Over the past seven years, the CNMI has received significant federal resources aimed at helping the community build back stronger from adversity, "but we are not stronger today," he said.

Instead, Palacios said, the CNMI is facing fiscal calamity "because of years of egregious misappropriation, waste, and abuse of both federal and Commonwealth resources with very little oversight and accountability."

The governor noted that his administration has already begun making painful cuts. In the first weeks of his administration, he said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang have issued notices of termination to hundreds of government employees who were funded at unsustainable levels through federal funds infused through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Palacios said they are now preparing to submit to the Legislature a drastically revised budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, and they expect further reductions in the government's workforce as well as other areas of government operations in the coming weeks.

He said they have also placed high priority on increasing oversight and accountability for federal and local funds.

The governor said his administration has sought assistance from the CNMI Attorney General, the Office of the Public Auditor, and the U.S. Department of Justice in investigating and holding accountable those responsible for the misuse and abuse of public funds.

Palacios said he has additionally requested federal technical assistance in conducting forensic audits of the Commonwealth's federal and local accounts.

He said they seek federal assistance in building a robust financial management system that is tailored to the Commonwealth's needs, and in bolstering local capacity to monitor the government's finances, conduct audits, and enforce collections.

"My aim is to ensure that the systems are in place to deter and detect the kinds of abuses of public funds that were rampant in our recent past, and improve stewardship and accountability for these funds to secure our future," Palacios said.

He said congressionally approved financial aid packages like the CARES Act and ARPA provided the CNMI much needed funding to respond to the pandemic and mitigate its devastating effects. Unfortunately and embarrassingly, Palacios said, much of these funds were squandered by the previous Commonwealth administration.

These funds, he pointed out, were supposed to go to critical infrastructure and essential public services, support business retention and jobs, stave off a fiscal cliff, and keep the CNMI afloat for at least three years until 2024.

"Now, in 2023, we are free-falling from a fiscal cliff that came two years too soon—in our already crippled island economy. Inflation has only worsened our situation," the governor said.

HSI officials unveil new task force for border security

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, fourth from left, poses for a group photo with Homeland Security Investigations Honolulu special agent-in-charge John F. Tobon, third from left, and HSI assistant director Jerry Templet, fifth from left, after a meeting at Apatang's office Friday. Also in the photo are acting secretary Tracy B. Norita and Customs director Jose Mafnas, fourth from right, and several other officials.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang met with visiting Homeland Security Investigations officials Friday during which they talked about the new Mariana Islands Border Enforcement Security Task Force in cooperation with the CNMI and Guam.

Apatang, is his capacity as acting governor, met with HSI assistant director Jerry Templet and HSI Honolulu special-agent-in-charge John F. Tobon, who were accompanied by Mark D. Yamanaka, resident agent in charge of the Immigration & Customs Enforcement Saipan Office, CNMI Customs director Jose Mafnas, and HSI assistant special agent John Duenas.

Acting Finance secretary Tracy B. Norita was among those who joined the meeting.

Templet said it is his first time to visit the CNMI and that their office covers this area and that he felt it was important to come out and actually see it here.

Templet said their agency considers relationships with state and local agencies important in order to complete their mission. "Certainly, we understand the value of having everybody working on the same team in order to protect the community, specifically protect Saipan from emerging threats, threats that we know about," he said.

Templet said one of their goals this year is expanding into cyber intrusion.

"We have some really smart people, and our technology section specifically is growing out exponentially. So we're definitely involved in those investigations that can do some really good forensic work," he said.

Tobon said one of the good things that happened at the end of the last U.S. Congress is that the Border Enforcement Security Task Force, or BEST, got codified into law. Tobon said that's going to allow them to reimburse departments for the salaries of the personnel that they assign to the BEST.

"So it really becomes a force multiplier in situations where we may not be able to give you money, but we may able to reimburse you for money you've already spent. That promotes the benefits of all the agencies, the state agencies as well as our agency," he said.

Tobon said it allows them to give access to all of the personnel that are assigned as task force officers all of their resources.

Tobon said they just had a conversation about this is how to create pathways to give opportunities for individuals who are graduating from local colleges to go into federal law enforcement as well.

Tobon said this will allow their office on Saipan have people from this community.

He said this creates great opportunity for those students, and also creates great opportunity for HSI because it gives them consistency in terms of the personnel that are here.

"We want the personnel that are here to come from this community and so that's another opportunity through BEST and through this collective partnership that we can do that we're starting out as a pilot project," Tobon said.

He said they are calling it the pathways internship program. Tobon said Honolulu is one of five or six offices that are piloting it, and once they get through that pilot project, then they are going to expand it nationwide.

Apatang said it's a very good project as he is sure that a lot of the youth who are graduating from college will be interested in those careers.

"A lot of them are joining the military also, but I guess they're not aware that we have this opportunity," Apatang said.

Mafnas said they work closely with HSI here and has an officer assigned to the task force.

"And we are partners with them, helping with border enforcement for whatever information. We've been doing it for a long time," Mafnas said.

High school mock trial competition on Feb. 16-17

» Three high schools compete for the chance to represent NMI in nationals

On Feb. 16 and 17, 2023, students from Marianas High School, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Senior High School, and Saipan Southern High School will participate in the annual mock trial competition at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe. The winning team will represent the CNMI at the National Mock Trial Competition in Little Rock, Arkansas from May 18-20, 2023.

"After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to once again give our students the chance to display their hard work and talents," said mock trial coordinator Judy T. Aldan.

This year's topic concerns the hypothetical theft of parts of the historic Japanese World War II tank on Beach Road. Students will take turns acting as attorneys and witnesses for the prosecution and for the defense. Judges and justices of the local and federal courts will preside, and volunteer members of the NMI Bar Association will sit as jurors.

The Marianas High School team was crowned champions in the previous two competitions, and they return this year to defend their title streak.

The mock trial program, now in its 25th year, is sponsored by the CNMI Judiciary, the CNMI Public School System, the CNMI Bar Association, and the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society. ***(PR)***

CNMI UNIVERSITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABLITITES AND CNMI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The 2023 Champions of Equal Opportunity Awards Ceremony is sponsored by the CNMI-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CNMI-UCEDD) and the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CNMI DD Council).

Each year the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CNMI DD Council) along with our partners in the Disability Network are proud to bestow our "Champions of Equal Opportunity" (CEO) awards to self-advocates and advocates who have been nominated by members of their community from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These awards are given to recognize individuals who share and promote our values of self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion.

This year, the CNMI DD Council along with our partners in the Disability Network will again recognize outstanding leaders as "Champions of Equal Opportunity." As part of our selection process, the Planning Committee is asking community members from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to consider nominating a self-advocate(s) and advocate(s) from your islands who have done outstanding work to advance our goals. This year the awards ceremony is scheduled for March 1, 2023, after the proclamation ceremony. We hope that our recipients will be able to come in-person, but a virtual option is also in-place.

The time will be confirmed as we get closer to the event. We ask that all nominees be available to participate in our event either in person or virtually so that they may all be recognized during our event.

We invite you to nominate an individual with a developmental disability [self-advocate(s) and advocate(s)], residing in your respective islands, who personifies the ideals of self-determination, inclusion, and integration through legislative advocacy, public awareness/engagement, organizational leadership, or some combination thereof.

In addition, please scan and email to info@cnmicdd.gov.mp any supporting documentation such as certificates of appreciation, letters of commendation, awards, news articles or letters of support for each category that you have nominated an individual or entity to assist the committee with the selection process.

Google nomination forms need to be completed by February 15, 2023. If you have any questions, please email us at info@cnmicdd.gov.mp or call the Council at (670) 664-7000/3/5.

Rota Google Nomination Form or QR Code
https://forms.gle/k96KUP9ukeZ9yGBX9

Tinian Google Nomination Form or QR Code
https://forms.gle/5tXVcorid288FZbE9

Saipan Google Nomination Form or QR Code
https://forms.gle/FQdzdfTwCeXmVXra7

Search suspended for mariner missing in Rota-Guam waters

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the active search for the third mariner from the 42-foot vessel *Senor Dung* at sunset on Feb. 12. The third mariner, 49-years-old, remains missing.

"Suspending search efforts without locating everyone in a case is never easy, and our condolences go out to the family and friends of the third mariner," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "We are fortunate to have such strong local relationships [that] contributed to the rescue of two of three mariners. We are also extremely grateful again to our local and military partners who've come together a second time in less than a week to search for those missing at sea. We thank the U.S. Pacific Air Forces hosting exercise Cope North for diverting those assets and crews to assist."

The combined team conducted more than 26 search patterns over more than 96 hours, saturating an area of more than 7,566 square nautical miles.

Responders involved to date include crews from:

- Guam Fire Department
- Rota Department of Public Safety
- U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two-Five
- Guam Army National Guard
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marine Corps
- Royal Australian Air Force
- French Air and Space Force - Forces armées en Asie-Pacifique et en Polynésie française
- USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139)
- U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point
- U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-center

The crew of the USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) transfers two mariners rescued from the water about halfway between Guam and Rota midday on Feb. 9, 2023, to a Station Apra Harbor 45-foot Response Boat-Medium for further transport to shore. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In Guam for Cope North 23, the French contingent helps the U.S. Coast Guard search for missing mariners Feb. 11, 2023, with their Casa CN-235. The French aircraft and its crew are used for search and rescue missions routinely. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"As with our previous case, aviation support is critical when in these situations due to the size of the area we need to search. *Un danguklo na si yu'us ma'ase* to the Guam Army National Guard helicopter crew who located the debris field and vectored in the *Myrtle Hazard* crew locating the two mariners we rescued," said Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, one of the search and rescue mission coordinators on the case.

At 7:30pm on Feb. 8, watchstanders at the FM/SG JSRC received a mayday call over VHF-FM Channel reporting the vessel *Senior Dong* taking on water between Rota and Guam. The master stated there were three people aboard the sinking vessel, and communications were lost while gathering information from the master. Guam Fire Department confirmed seeing the vessel depart Hagåtña Marina earlier in the day.

Watchstanders immediately diverted the *Myrtle Hazard* from patrol northwest of the scene and directed the launch of a Station Apra Harbor 45-foot Response Boat-Medium rescue boat crew. They requested assistance from Guam Fire Department rescue boat crews and HSC-25 using their MH-60 Knighthawk helicopter. Searches the following day included efforts by the U.S. Coast Guard, Guam Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter crew, HC-130s attached to the U.S. Air Force 36th Airlift Squadron, and the HC-130 Hercules aircrew from Air Station Barbers Point. The Lakota crew's efforts led directly to the rescue of the two survivors.

The U.S. Department of Defense and multinational aircraft crews currently in Guam are participating in Pacific Air Forces' Cope North 2023; a multilateral U.S. Pacific Air Forces-sponsored field training exercise focused on trilateral airborne integration for large-force employment, agile combat employment, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training. The exercise runs from Feb. 8 to 24. HSC-25, also participating in Cope North, and the Guam National Guard are permanently stationed in Guam.

While the active search is suspended, anyone with further information or possible sightings in the coming days should contact the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center at +1 671-355-4824.

Weather on scene was challenging with winds up to 25 knots, wind waves of as high as 6 feet, and swells up to 9 feet, but it improved throughout the weekend. A small craft advisory and a rip current statement were in effect for much of the search. ***(USCG)***

The crew of the USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) sight two mariners about halfway between Guam and Rota midday on Feb. 9, 2023, after being vectored into the debris field by a Guam Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter crew who found the debris initially. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas G. Shimizu is *Guam Business Magazine* 2022 Executive of the Year

Thomas G. Shimizu is named the *Guam Business Magazine* 2022 Executive of the Year. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TUMON, Guam—Thomas G. Shimizu, general manager, Ambros Inc., Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., Shimbros International Inc., and South Pacific Distributors Inc., was named the *Guam Business Magazine* 2022 Executive of the Year at a packed gala last Feb. 11 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Shimizu is featured on the cover of the *Guam Business Magazine* January- February issue, which was released at the gala.

Besides Shimizu, six other executives vied for the award:

- **Frank A. Cruz,** vice president and general manager of Guam Fast Foods Inc., which does business as KFC Guam and Sbarro Guam**;**
- **Jimmy T.C. Hau,** president, Mobil Oil Guam Inc., President, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. and president, Mobil Oil Micronesia Inc;.
- **Charles B. Hazzard III**, president, CEO and project director, DZSP 21**;**
- **Charlie S. Hermosa,** general manager, Guam-Micronesia, APL; president, Bella Wings Aviation; and president, Hermosa Ventures LLC, which does business as Guam Gift Baskets**;**
- **Siska S. Hutapea**, founder and president of Cornerstone Valuation Guam Inc.; and
- **Ken Yanagisawa,** general manager, the Tsubaki Tower and Hotel Nikko Guam; president/director, PHR Management Inc.; managing director, Ken Real Estate Lease Ltd.

Shimizu graduated from Fr. Duenas Memorial School in 1987. He then attended St. Louis University where he graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's of science in business administration.

While in college, he interned at the Anheuser Busch Partners in Productivity, where he participated in consulting to Anheuser Busch Distributors to help improve profitability of their operations. Following graduation in 1991, he began his upward career with Ambros, first as IT manager, reviewing several computer systems for Ambros. He then rotated to different divisions in the company, including operations, and eventually went on to lead the Marianas Pacific Distributors on Saipan as manager. At each position, he was able to, among other things, make improvements to the system, increasing efficiency, reduce costs and improve performance.

In 1995, he became the general manager for Ambros Inc. Guam, where he remains today. At the helm, he continued to make improvements, reflected in the increased revenue from $35 million in 2001 to $70 million in 2020. He has implemented a growth strategy for the company via addition of new products and expansion of new territories for existing products, including establishing branch operations in American Samoa.

Shimizu has also served for many years in various community organizations, including as the director of the Northern Marianas Asset Acquisition Inc. board of directors (2019 - 2020); director of Guam Chamber of Commerce board of directors (2019-present); director of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association board of directors (2004 - 2005); and Bank Pacific board of directors member (2021- present). ***(PR)***

Advocates, supporters rally for H.O.P.E. Recovery Center

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clinets, advocayes, and supporters of the Hinemlu Ohala Para Enteramenti, or H.O.P.E. Recovery Center, staged a "Rally for H.O.P.E." last Friday in front of the Capital Hill Baseball Field, during which petitions to keep the center open were handed out for the community to sign.

» Apatang: No intention to close down center

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, who is currently the acting governor, actually walked over from the Office of the Governor to the rally site and said that they have no intention of shutting it down. Apatang was seen at the rally as it was about to disperse around 5pm. He later told *Saipan Tribune*: "We never intended to close the program. I›ve been supporting these programs since the beginning of time, but we›re trying to arrange the manpower for the program itself."

He added, "[The ralliers] could've come to the office, we could have talked, and we could've explained what's going on."

However, the ralliers told *Saipan Tribune* after the event that they did make an effort to speak with the governor and lieutenant governor since Feb. 2, but have not received a return call to meet. They also reached out to the lieutenant governor's office secretary, but they did not receive a call back as well.

They said they called the lieutenant governor's office again last Feb. 7, but they still did not hear back from them. It was also learned at the rally that some people in recovery tried to seek help for the program but were turned away because of the uncertainty of its future—if it will remain open or shut down.

On the same day of the rally, on Friday, businessman Diego M. Sablan was officially appointed as special assistant for Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program.

LEIGH GASES

Rally for H.O.P.E. recovery center event goers pose for a photo last Friday at the road in front of the Capitol Hill Baseball Field to show support for the center by handing out petitions to keep it open.

Apatang said, "The governor [Arnold I. Palacios] and I never intended to close the program. As a matter of fact, we appointed a special assistant effective today, [Friday]."

When asked why the idea about the center's possible closure even came up, Apatang said, "We don't print money. We are trying to figure out how to try and continue the program. This is a very important program for us."

As for the protesters, he said, "This is their right to come out. But we never intended to close the program."

About 50 or more rally goers on the scene held signs they showed to passing cars that said various things such as "Save HOPE", "WE LOVE SAAR," "KEEP H.O.P.E ALIVE," among others.

Some people in recovery, along with friends, families, some probation officers from the CNMI Board of Parole, House of Representatives Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and others, were also seen at the rally.

One of the persons in recovery, Myrna M. Hofschneider, flew from Tinian and shared her story on how the H.O.P.E center has helped her. She said the staff are "amazing people. I went there and I gained family and friends."

The rally was organized by one of the center's clients, Jun Santos, and his peers in recovery and other supporters. They made clear that the rally is not a Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program-sanctioned event.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that it is their hope "that our effort and showing the support for the program that the government decides to keep it open."

Chester Hinds, the Office of the Attorney General Criminal Division chief prosecutor, expressed hope last month that the H.O.P.E. Recovery Center will be kept open as it greatly benefits the community.

H.O.P.E., which is locally funded under the Office of the Governor, has helped prevent about 80% of Drug Court participants from committing crimes again.

The center reopened on March 14, 2022, after a four-month-long relocation.

SIS AP Capstone Class explores sustainability

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's AP Seminar students in the AP Capstone Class pose with headmaster Dr. Ron Synder, far right, after their presentations on sustainability last Wednesday at the American Memorial Park Theater.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Saipan International School's high school AP Seminar students in the AP Capstone Class presented their research project on the topic of sustainability last Wednesday night at the American Memorial Park Theater.

The projects presented by each group are related to various issues of sustainability and proposed solutions based on their research.

AP Seminar allows students to develop and practice their skills in research, collaboration, and communication. Students investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

"Preserving Aquatic Life in Lakes" was presented by Charlene Son, Ian Song, Cathy Woo, and Wendy Son.

"Asteroid Mining" was presented by Stephanie Kim, Claire Park, Yebin Shin, Lisha Lai, and Olivia Hwang.

"Mitigating Coral Bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef" was presented by Omari Joab, Hestina Yelin Park, Christian Newman, Soledad Sablan, and Elizabeth Tom.

"Mitigating Carbon in Air Pollution in China" was presented by Jacky Zhen, Charlie Li, and Mark Cao.

"The Poaching of African Elephants" was presented by Kyle Kramer, Mimi Culp, MJ Magno, and Serin Chung.

Lisha Lai told *Saipan Tribune* after the presentation that their group chose their topic because they wanted to see what other resources are available in space to help sustain Earth. She said the process and length of research for the project was long and nerve-wracking, but that "through group discussions and our teachers' support, this project turned out to be okay."

According to SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS is the only full Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma school in the CNMI and in Micronesia. "Our AP Seminar students have achieved a 100% pass rate since the program's inception in 2019. Graduates who come back to SIS to visit say the classes in the Capstone program are the classes that best prepared them for the rigors of university education."

Synder said that prior to the presentation, each student had to do an individual report on a specific scope to research on, then they come together as a group then combine their information into a presentation.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

NOTICE is given that a notice of intent to dissolve **Marianas Pacific Travel LLC**, a corporation with its registered office at Alupyang Pl, Chalan Piao Village, Saipan, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporation for filling in accordance with the CNMI code.

D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT: Bachelor's degree in Accounting (may be foreign equivalent). 60 months experience as an Accountant. Develop, maintain, and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs. Knowledge in GAAP; SAP; SAGE programs. Send resume to: D&Q SAIPAN CO., LTD, Attn: Max Kretzers, P.O. Box 504462, Saipan, MP 96950. Or e-mail: hr_dq@tanholdings.com

William S. Torres
Petitioner
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 2318
Saipan, MP 96950
Email: asterlaje2@gmail.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RAMON MESGNON CASTRO: Deceased/ Decedent.
Civil Action No. 23-0018
NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DATE: March 16, 2023
TIME: 10:00 am
JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RAMON MESGNON CASTRO, OR HIS ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner William S. Torres has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Ramon Mesgnon Castro, the deceased. Petitioner's U.S. Postal mailing address is P.O. Box 10001 PMB 2318, Saipan, MP 96950, and mobile contact is (670) 287-7737.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to William Torres at P.O. Box 10001 PMB 2318, Saipan MP 96950 or via the email address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2023.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

'No jab, no job' did the job: The COVID vaccine mandate was the smart policy, so keep it handy

When he was New York mayor in 2021, Bill de Blasio was right to impose a COVID vaccine mandate for anyone employed by the New York City municipal government. And during his time as mayor, Eric Adams was right to keep the requirement in place for the past year and successfully defend it in court. The "no jab, no job" regulation has been consistently upheld by state and federal courts.

And it worked. Adams now reports that 96% of the city workforce has completed their initial round of the vaccine, noticeably higher than the overall city average of 80%. The price of the rule was de minimis, with only 1,780 fools losing their jobs for some cockeyed belief in "freedom" or "liberty." We love both concepts dearly, but there's no right to a public sector job. If you really want the government to stay out of your life, getting a paycheck from the taxpayers seems like a bad fit.

Furthermore, if you deny the proven safety and effectiveness of the Trump-developed, Biden-distributed COVID vaccines—which have saved millions of lives—what does it say about your judgment? The same for those who lamely tried fake excuses on medical grounds or religious objections and anyone else who follows the health care prescriptions of anti-vaxxer Kyrie Irving.

These dopes who lost their jobs hopefully didn't lose their health or their lives from the ravages of COVID. While they are not entitled to their old jobs back, once the current employee mandate lapses on Friday, assuming they are alive and fit, they are welcome to apply for openings.

As for the end of the no-exception vax for everyone rules announced by Adams yesterday, we won't know for some time if COVID vax rates decline dangerously. But we do know that the mayor and his health commissioner can always switch it back on if needs be.

The mandate works. It is just and fair and it saves lives. Mr. Mayor, keep it nearby and at the ready if things go south again.

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Older Americans need more protection from COVID

By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering science. She is host of the* Follow the Science *podcast*.

COVID is still killing about 500 Americans every day—picking off the oldest, frailest members of our society. About 9 in 10 COVID deaths are now among people over 65.

Some older people feel left behind by 2023's "back-to-normal" attitude. Protecting them should be the focus for the rest of us. And we can do that without the kind of sacrifices we endured in the early part of the pandemic.

"When we hear there are 460 deaths or 520 deaths and they're all old people ... that cuts very raw with me," said epidemiologist Michael Osterholm on a recent podcast episode. "I put myself in that category—I will soon be 70 years of age—we feel like our lives are almost seen as disposable."

I wrote to Osterholm, who directs the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, to tell him that while I was moved by his plea to care about the old, surely nobody wants to see closed playgrounds and schools again. Whatever solution we find for 2023, it has to allow kids full freedom to play, study and just be kids. "I couldn't agree more," he said. He does not want to see people return to universal masking or isolation.

So what should we be doing?

Despite our political polarization over the pandemic, Americans generally agree that we care about our old people and don't want them to die. And now for the first time there's some hope we can agree about what to do about it.

The political left and most of the public health community took the position that the best strategy was to try to prevent cases across the board, first through closing restaurants and other business, canceling school, and then imposing mask mandates and other restrictions after a partial reopening.

The view on the right was encapsulated in a petition called The Great Barrington Declaration, which emphasized the protection of seniors but wasn't specific on how that would be accomplished other than that it should not be done by reducing the spread of the virus through children and young people.

But we have better scientific studies showing what's most likely to help. There's less guesswork to squabble over. We have better technology—drugs, vaccines and home tests.

Osterholm said we need to be clearer about the limitations of masking and make sure those at high risk know they can protect themselves by wearing an N95 mask in some circumstances, but can't assume cloth and surgical masks offer protection (either to the wearer or anyone around them).

We should also use rapid tests before visiting elderly friends and relatives, and cancel plans with them if we feel sick or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID. That's much better than avoiding people, which has an enormous price. "That may be one of the cruelest things of all," said Osterholm. "If we basically prevent [older people] from getting infected by isolating them to where it's loneliness that does them in."

We can talk to the older people in our lives about vaccines and boosters. An onslaught of false claims about the vaccines has frightened people away from getting them, even when they would clearly benefit from them. Older people are still dying because they have never been vaccinated, Osterholm said, or they skipped boosters that could save their lives.

And doctors can become better informed about treatment for patients who test positive. Many older people aren't getting the antiviral Paxlovid, though it could save their lives. The drug should be given to people at elevated risk for dying from COVID-19 as soon as possible after they develop any symptoms. But Osterholm said too many doctors thought the drug was only for people who had already developed severe symptoms.

Paxlovid requires that people be taken off some regular medications—but that can usually be done safely, he said. By contrast, getting infected with COVID is never safe in people over 75. "There's just a lot of misinformation even in the medical community," he said.

But there is only so much regular people can do. We need scientists and public health officials to do more, putting older people at the center of their efforts. The plan to make COVID shots into a seasonal vaccine given along with flu shots is unlikely to stop the stream of death because SARS-CoV-2 doesn't follow a seasonal pattern and the evolution of variants remains unpredictable. What we need is for scientists to keep working toward a better vaccine.

Americans can go on forever trying to decide which political faction won the debate over how to handle the pandemic. The questions are different now—and so is the right strategy. When our senior citizens die before their time, we all lose.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Earthquakes killed more than 33,000 people last week. Three men are partly to blame

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

There are moments, during horrific natural disasters such as the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, when you can witness the best that mankind is capable of—the noble behavior that often emerges during a crisis.

A Greek search and rescue team and Turkish special operations police—whose members might have been fighting each other in wartime—worked side by side to rescue a small girl through a narrow gap in a pile of concrete that once was an apartment building near Antakya, Turkey. A group of Syrian White Helmets, scores of whom died rescuing civilians in Aleppo from the massive Syrian government bombings during the civil war, returned to extract a bloodied toddler from earthquake rubble in Azaz.

The endless Twitter videos of dramatic rescues move me to tears. But then anger sets in.

While an earthquake is an act of nature, it's not too soon to ask what contribution three political leaders have made to the extent of the disaster. When it comes to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, and Vladimir Putin, that contribution is enormous. Untold numbers of earthquake victims will die unnecessarily because of what these three have done—or refused to do.

As the earthquake death toll mounts, longtime Turkish journalist and Washington Post columnist Asli Aydintasbas contends that Turkey's earthquake may be more than just a natural disaster.

After a massive earthquake in 1999, she writes, the blame for many deaths "went to contractors who used cheap materials, officials who failed to enforce Turkey's relatively loose building codes," and "to a government that has failed to develop a nationwide earthquake response strategy."

Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party, known as AKP, rode to power shortly afterward, as the public demanded change. But over the past decade, the Turkish president has become increasingly autocratic, arresting opposition leaders and journalists and cracking down on any criticism. Corruption has flourished; Turkey has slid steadily downhill on Transparency International's annual, respected Corruption Perceptions Index, sinking to 38 on a scale of 0-100, where 0 means highly corrupt and 100 means very clean.

Erdoğan has favored friendly magnates from Turkey's booming construction industry and disdained urban planners and environmentalists. Rules for earthquake-safe construction, finally passed in 2018, are ignored, with scant oversight.

No one should be surprised that many thousands of buildings crumbled immediately in earthquake-hit cities. Poorly built five-story apartment buildings pancaked into piles of concrete next door to damaged buildings that survived, perhaps due to older and better construction.

Aided by Erdoğan's blind eye, corrupt builders using shoddy materials likely doomed Turkish citizens across the earthquake zone.

Also disturbing, many of the worst-hit parts of Turkey are located in ethnic Kurdish areas of the country, whose cities and towns have been repressed by Erdoğan's government. Death tolls are rising there amid freezing temperatures. The United Nations, along with international aid groups, must insist that Erdoğan does not shortchange Kurdish areas that desperately need aid.

Meantime, across the border in Syria, the brutal Assad is directly responsible not only for much of the current Syrian death toll but also for the inability of international rescue teams to access the quake zone.

During Syria's civil war, in which disaffected Syrians tried to overthrow the dictator, Assad's planes bombed opposition and towns mercilessly, aided by the Russian air force of his ally, Vladimir Putin. Hospitals, schools, and markets were targets of the Assad-Putin massacres from the air, in a preview of what Putin's planes now do in Ukraine.

Millions of refugees from the bombings flooded into the cities and towns of northern Syria, which are now being hit hardest by the earthquake and have almost no access to aid.

Since this northern region of Idlib is considered opposition territory by Assad, he managed, years ago, to limit the amount of humanitarian refugee aid that could be sent across the border from neighboring Turkey or Iraq. When the United Nations tried to get Assad to permit more aid to flow in, Russia vetoed the attempt at the U.N. Security Council. (Hats off again to Putin for helping ensure that more civilians die.)

Prior to the earthquake, Assad permitted aid to enter via only one border crossing terminal from Turkey, called Bab al-Hawa. Now that terminal has been destroyed by the earthquake.

So, as Syrian survivors in Idlib wander aimlessly in the snow, their flimsy housing destroyed, and as White Helmets desperately attempt rescue, there is no international aid—no medicine, no food, and no help for the millions of desperate Syrians affected. International aid agencies have no way to reach them unless Assad opens more crossings.

That is just fine for the Syrian dictator. The more opposition supporters who die, the better chance he has to retake Idlib province in the north.

Can Erdoğan and Assad be made to pay for their contribution to earthquake deaths?

Turkey is scheduled to hold a general election in June. Erdoğan has jailed the most popular opposition leader, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu. But the president's contribution to this disaster might increase popular support for the remaining opposition leaders, and further diminish Erdoğan's onetime popularity with religious Kurds.

As for Assad, the test will be whether the United Nations can press him to permit aid to cross into Syria—and what he and Putin will demand as a price for this "humanitarian gesture." Erdoğan will have an important role to play in urging Putin to agree.

Meantime, as earthquake casualties mount into the high thousands, one thing can be said for certain: Erdoğan, Assad, and Putin are responsible for many of those deaths.

Love Poem for Valentine's Day

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

My inspiration for this sonnet is a 16th century madrigal by English composer Francis Pilkington (ca. 1570 -1638). Madrigals were popular secular songs in the Renaissance and early Baroque eras. Their lyrics were based on poetry and performed acapella without any accompaniment.

"Why should I grieve that she disdains my love,
Or seek for love, since love's a grief ?"
—Francis Pilkington

Why Should I Grieve

Why should I grieve and sing sad song blues
If love brings grief regardless of who I choose
In all compass directions wherever wind blows
We had hot torrid summers and then she froze
He snatched her right up underneath my nose
Took my beauty and left me without relief
Love's thorn pricks, blood flows from its rose
Must my love simply acquiesce to that thief
Lover come back to me, I will not fret or frown
About past events or any and all of our mistakes
Your touch, your kiss stops me from feeling down
With love from heaven above we shall partake
So why should I grieve and always seem to lose
My new love perspective stands inside your shoes.

Adjuncts are the gig workers of higher education

By HANK KALET
Progressive Perspectives

Hank Kalet is a journalist and adjunct instructor in New Jersey. He is an executive board member of PTLFC-AAUP-AFT (the Rutgers adjunct union). The views expressed in this op-ed are his own. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

Today's word is "adjunctification."

Adjunctification is the process by which the gig economy is imposed on America's colleges and universities and turns formerly tenured professors and instructors into contingent workers. Adjuncts are the part-time component of this, earning a fraction of what full-time faculty earn and having few of the protections enjoyed by their tenured peers.

Adjuncts like me (I teach journalism) struggle to earn enough to cover our bills, including health insurance. We often do not know if or how many classes we will be teaching until shortly before classes begin. This devalues our work and creates a disparity among faculty.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that, in 1970, 77.8% of the 474,000 teaching positions in higher education were staffed by tenured, full-time faculty. Today, around 54% of the 1.5 million faculty members across the country are teaching full time. This does not take into account the more than 400,000 full-timers who lack tenure. Overall, according to most estimates, about 7 in 10 faculty members are contingent or casually employed.

I teach journalism and writing at three schools and my course load ranges from as few as two classes to as many as six or seven. During last year's fall semester, I taught six classes and earned less than $22,000. I spend about 55 hours per week in the classroom or doing grading and prep-work. I'm in my car a lot, going from school to school. I have no say over the governance of my schools or departments. Still, I'm lucky. My wife works a corporate job with good pay and health care — which mitigates against the worst of what my colleagues face.

I love teaching. I believe what I do is necessary to the survival of our democratic culture, and college is about more than earning money. Teaching is a mission, a way to pay forward what I've received from all of the amazing professors I've been fortunate enough to learn from over the years.

Adjunctification is at the heart of the recently settled strike at The New School and was part of the larger set of issues during the strike at the University of California's 11 campuses. It has faculty at other schools — Rutgers, Northwestern, numerous institutions in Florida, and others — on a collision course with the bean counters in higher education who have transformed a public good into a privatized, money-making industry.

As the adjunct faculty union at Rutgers has been arguing during our contract negotiations, public universities are prioritizing their endowments, big-time sports and their reserve accounts, over education. More and more of the work is being done by people like my colleagues in our adjunct faculty union — most with doctorates or graduate degrees who deserve a more stable and affordable existence but are paid a fraction of what they are worth, and who lack access to health care or basic job security.

The corporate model we now operate under is bad for faculty, bad for students and bad for the country. Four-plus decades of politicians preaching austerity and privatization, belittling the humanities and the educated have taken their toll. Public funding of higher ed — both in terms of aid to schools and direct aid to students — is a fraction of what it was decades ago. Tuition has skyrocketed. Student debt has followed. And students are forced to make decisions they may not have made in a saner situation as they chase dollars to pay off their loans.

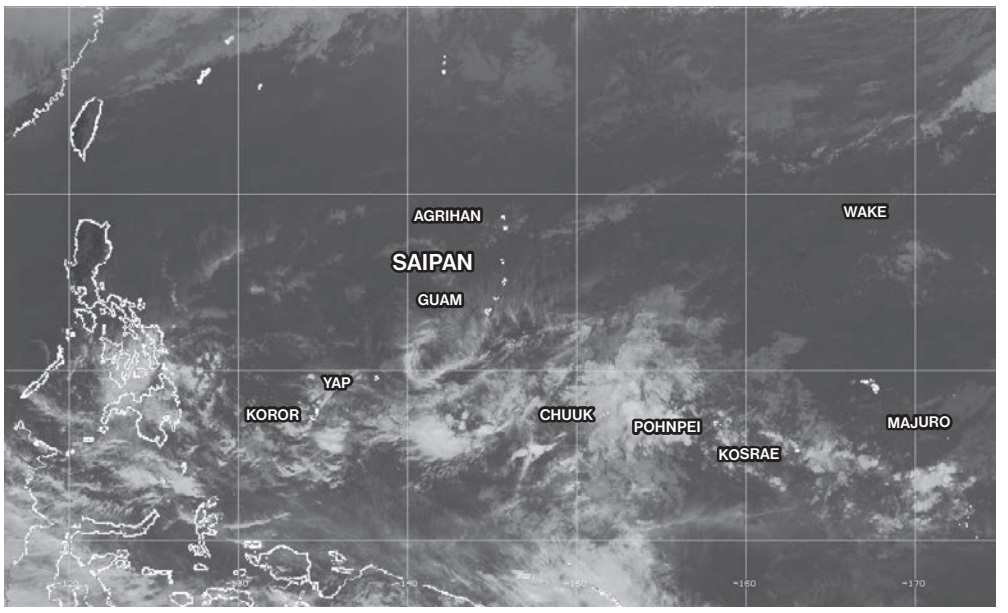
This harms students, graduates, instructors and schools, of course, but also damages society as a whole.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Partly sunny,	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
86º / 78º	86º / 78º	87º / 76º	87º / 78º	86º / 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:41 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, moderate to fresh trade winds and isolated, light trade-wind showers prevail this morning. Satellite shows a few cirrus tufts swirling overhead from deep convection south of 10N. Buoys and a 1 AM altimetry pass peg combined seas between 7 and 8 feet, composed mainly of wind waves and trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	69° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	38° / 15°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	62° / 52°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 69°
New York	Mostly Sunny	46° / 31°
Osaka	Showers/Wind	55° / 44°
Paris	Cloudy	40° / 34°
Busan	Rain/Wind	79° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	80° / 60°
Salem	Sunny	87° / 65°
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	36° / 23°
Tokyo	Showers	46° / 41°
Washington, DC	Sunny	48° / 29°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:31 AM	12:06 PM	-
Wednesday	1:31 AM	12:58 PM	-
Thursday	2:34 AM	1:57 PM	-
Friday	3:39 AM	3:02 PM	-
Saturday	4:42 AM	4:10 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:23 AM	High Tide	1.28
7:04 AM	Low Tide	1.01
12:49 PM	High Tide	1.63
8:39 PM	Low Tide	-0.07

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	1, 4, 5, 7
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7

ROTA TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

GUAM TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

CK Smokehouse now open for breakfast

MARK RABAGO
CK Smoke House & Salad recently introduced its breakfast menu with the ham and cheese omelet the No. 1 bestseller.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Start the day right by heading down to CK Smoke House & Salad in Chalan Kanoa where they've started serving breakfast.

P&A Corp. general manager Doyi Kim said the breakfast menu at the restaurant came after a year of planning.

She said CK Smoke House & Salad's goal was always to be a full-service restaurant that can offer meals during breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

One of the bestsellers has been their ham and cheese omelet which is complemented by freshly brewed coffee and one of the best french toast on island.

The $9.95-$11.95 breakfast also includes western omelet, spam and egg, eggplant omelet, marinated bangus, bacon and egg, and chamorro sausage.

Kim said the obvious continental, Filipino, and local flavor of their breakfast offering was no coincidence as they recently hired a cook whose specialty is cooking breakfast such as french toast and omelet.

As far as the reception is concerned, she said CK Smoke House & Salad has attracted its fair share of customers from the southern part of the island.

These include office workers who don't have time to make breakfast and want an easy pick-me-up before heading to work and customers who just want to enjoy the laid-back and mesmerizing tranquil atmosphere at CK Smoke House & Salad while sampling a complete breakfast.

Asked what makes CK Smoke House & Salad's breakfast menu different from other breakfast offerings on Saipan, Kim said the restaurant proudly uses only the freshest local produce, especially their meats that come directly from their own slaughterhouse, Marianas Meat Harvesting Co, one of the companies operated by Kim.

CK Smoke House & Salad, like Marianas Meat Harvesting Co., is owned by P&A Corp.

Soon, Kim said they will also be introducing more pastries and bread for breakfast for those pining for a more continental feel in the morning.

CK Smoke House & Salad is also now open for private parties with tray packages starting at $350. That package allows you to use their 35-seat private room with a karaoke machine for free.

And CK Smoke House & Salad recently opened a second location on the tourist hotspot at Managaha Island. Like its big brother on Saipan, the newest outlet is slowly making its name among tourists visiting the island for its flavorful barbecue items.

Kim said the Managaha outlet has helped attract more customers to the original, as tourists who sampled the food there usually come to the Chalan Kanoa branch to taste more of their menu.

CK Smoke House & Salad is located at the side of the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa and can easily seat up to 70 customers. Their breakfast menu can be enjoyed everyday from 6:30am to 10am, lunch from 11am to 2pm, and dinner from 5pm to 9pm.

For more information, call (670) 234-3331 or (670) 783-8050. They can also be reached via their Facebook or Instagram accounts.

MARK RABAGO
CK Smoke House & Salad is located at the side of the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

MARK RABAGO
CK Smoke House & Salad staff pose for a group photo in front of its very Instagramable interior.

Bank of Guam modifies hours of operation

HAGANTA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced its new branch hours of operation. The change will be effective Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, and will be standardized across the Bank's network.

New branch hours will be as follows for Guam, CNMI, and neighboring islands regions:

- Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm
- Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Drive-Up and Walk-Up operations will also follow these new hours.

This change allows the bank to strategically leverage resources to provide even greater accessibility to their customers. While Saturday operations will no longer be available, customers will gain more time to bank throughout the week as Monday through Friday operations will extend by one hour at all branch locations.

"Our hours have changed but our mission to deliver only the best experiences for our customers has not. Closing on Saturday will give our customers more access to our branches during the week while allowing our employees the work-life balance that is so important. We know that in order for us to be our best for our

customers we have to make sure our employees are at their best.

This means allowing them the time they need to rest and be with

family so they can face the new week re-energized and motivated to deliver the type of service customers deserve," said Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin P.L.G. Cook.

The bank continues to provide many options to bank 24 hours a day,seven days a week, making The People's Bank always within reach.

These options include Bank of Guam's Online, Mobile, and Voice solutions. ***(PR)***

Google to expand misinformation 'prebunking' in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP)—After seeing promising results in Eastern Europe, Google will initiate a new campaign in Germany that aims to make people more resilient to the corrosive effects of online misinformation.

The tech giant plans to release a series of short videos highlighting the techniques common to many misleading claims. The videos will appear as advertisements on platforms like Facebook, YouTube or TikTok in Germany. A similar campaign in India is also in the works.

It's an approach called prebunking, which involves teaching people how to spot false claims before they encounter them. The strategy is gaining support among researchers and tech companies.

"There's a real appetite for solutions," said Beth Goldberg, head of research and development at Jigsaw, an incubator division of Google that studies emerging social challenges. "Using ads as a vehicle to counter a disinformation technique is pretty novel. And we're excited about the results."

While belief in falsehoods and conspiracy theories isn't new, the speed and reach of the internet has given them a heightened power. When catalyzed by algorithms, misleading claims can discourage people from getting vaccines, spread authoritarian propaganda, foment distrust in democratic institutions and spur violence.

It's a challenge with few easy solutions. Journalistic fact checks are effective, but they're labor intensive, aren't read by everyone, and won't convince those already distrustful of traditional journalism. Content moderation by tech companies is another response, but it only drives misinformation elsewhere, while prompting cries of censorship and bias.

Pre-bunking videos, by contrast, are relatively cheap and easy to produce and can be seen by millions when placed on popular platforms. They also avoid the political challenge altogether by focusing not on the topics of false claims, which are often cultural lightning rods, but on the techniques that make viral misinformation so infectious.

Those techniques include fear-mongering, scapegoating, false comparisons, exaggeration and missing context. Whether the subject is COVID-19, mass shootings, immigration, climate change or elections, misleading claims often rely on one or more of these tricks to exploit emotions and short-circuit critical thinking.

Nation

US jets down 4 objects in 8 days, unprecedented in peacetime

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" over Lake Huron on Sunday on orders from President Joe Biden. It was the fourth such downing in eight days and the latest military strike in an extraordinary chain of events over U.S. airspace that Pentagon officials believe has no peacetime precedent.

Part of the reason for the repeated shootdowns is a "heightened alert" following a spy balloon from China that emerged over U.S. airspace in late January, Gen. Glen VanHerck, head of NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, said in a briefing with reporters.

Since then, fighter jets last week also shot down objects over Canada and Alaska. Pentagon officials said they posed no security threats, but so little was known about them that Pentagon officials were ruling nothing out — not even UFOs.

"We have been more closely scrutinizing our airspace at these altitudes, including enhancing our radar, which may at least partly explain the increase," said Melissa Dalton, assistant defense secretary for homeland defense.

U.S. authorities have made clear that they constantly monitor for unknown radar blips, and it is not unusual to shut down airspace as a precaution to evaluate them. But the unusually assertive response was raising questions about whether such use of force was warranted, particularly as administration officials said the objects were not of great national security concern and the downings were just out of caution.

AP

In this photo provided by the U.S. Navy, sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2 recover a high-altitude surveillance balloon off the coast of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Feb. 5, 2023.

VanHerck said the U.S. adjusted its radar so it could track slower objects. "With some adjustments, we've been able to get a better categorization of radar tracks now," he said, "and that's why I think you're seeing these, plus there's a heightened alert to look for this information."

He added: "I believe this is the first time within United States or American airspace that NORAD or United States Northern Command has taken kinetic action against an airborne object."

Asked if officials have ruled out extraterrestrials, VanHerck said, "I haven't ruled out anything at this point."

The Pentagon officials said they were still trying to determine what exactly the objects were and said they had considered using the jets' guns instead of missiles, but it proved to be too difficult. They drew a strong distinction between the three shot down over this weekend and the balloon from China.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz tweeted that airmen in the 148th Fighter Wing, an Air National Guard fighter unit in Duluth, shot down the object over Lake Huron.

The extraordinary air defense activity began in late January, when a white orb the officials said was from China appeared over the U.S. and hovered above the nation for days before fighter jets downed it off the coast of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. That event played out over livestream. Many Americans have been captivated by the drama playing out in the skies as fighter jets scramble to shoot down objects.

The latest brought down was first detected on Saturday evening over Montana, but it was initially thought to be an anomaly. Radar picked it up again Sunday hovering over the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and it was going over Lake Huron, Pentagon officials said Sunday.

U.S. and Canadian authorities had restricted some airspace over the lake earlier Sunday as planes were scrambled to intercept and try to identify the object. According to a senior administration official, the object was octagonal, with strings hanging off, but had no discernable payload. It was flying low at about 20,000 feet, said the official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials were still trying to precisely identify two other objects shot down by F-22 fighter jets, and were working to determine whether China was responsible as concerns escalated about what Washington said was Beijing's large-scale aerial surveillance program.

An object shot down Saturday over Canada's Yukon was described by U.S. officials as a balloon significantly smaller than the balloon—the size of three school buses—hit by a missile Feb. 4. A flying object brought down over the remote northern coast of Alaska on Friday was more cylindrical and described as a type of airship.

Migrants seeking US sponsors find questionable offers online

By ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pedro Yudel Bruzon was looking for someone in the U.S. to support his effort to seek asylum when he landed on a Facebook page filled with posts demanding up to $10,000 for a financial sponsor.

It's part of an underground market that's emerged since the Biden administration announced it would accept 30,000 immigrants each month arriving by air from Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti. Applicants for the humanitarian parole program need someone in the U.S., often a friend or relative, to promise to provide financial support for at least two years.

Bruzon, who lives in Cuba, doesn't know anyone who can do that, so he searched online. But he also doesn't have the money to pay for a sponsor and isn't sure the offers — or those making them — are real. He worries about being exploited or falling prey to a scam.

"They call it humanitarian parole, but it has nothing to do with being humanitarian," said Bruzon, who said he struggles to feed himself and his mother with what he makes as a 33-year-old Havana security guard. "Everyone wants money, even people in the same family."

It's unclear how many people in the United States may have charged migrants to sponsor them, but Facebook groups with names like "Sponsors U.S." carry dozens of posts offering and seeking financial supporters.

Several immigration attorneys said they could find no specific law prohibiting people from charging money to sponsor beneficiaries.

"As long as everything is accurate on the form and there are no fraudulent statements it may be legal," said lawyer Taylor Levy, who long worked along the border around El Paso, Texas. "But what worries me are the risks in terms of being trafficked and exploited. If lying is involved, it could be fraud."

Also, she noted, it "seems counterintuitive" to pay someone to promise to provide financial support.

Attorney Leon Fresco, a former top aide to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, said charging to be a sponsor is a "gray area" and the U.S. should send a forceful message against the practice.

Kennji Kizuka, an attorney and director of asylum policy for the International Rescue Committee, which resettles newcomers in the United States, said this type of thing happens with every new U.S. program benefitting migrants.

"It looks like some are just going to take people's money and the people are going to get nothing in return," Kizuka said.

Levy said such exploitation surrounding a similar U.S. program for Ukrainians prompted the government to publish an online guide about how to spot and protect against human-trafficking schemes.

One common scheme with immigration programs is known as notario fraud and involves people who call themselves "notarios públicos" charging large sums. In Latin America, the term refers to attorneys with special credentials, leading lead migrants to believe they are lawyers who can provide legal advice. In the U.S., notaries public are merely empowered to witness the signing of legal documents and issue oaths.

In another scheme, someone poses as a U.S. official asking for money. The U.S. government notes: "We do not accept Western Union, MoneyGram, PayPal, or gift cards as payment for immigration fees."

ACROSS THE NATION

Houston-area shelter-in-place lifted after ammonia leak

KATY, Texas (AP)—A shelter-in-place advisory issued in suburban Houston because of a leak of ammonia gas from a refrigeration line at a warehouse was lifted early Sunday afternoon, officials said. Officials said at a news conference that while air monitoring would continue around the 99 Cents Only Store distribution center in Katy, there wasn't currently a health risk. No injuries were reported. Emergency responders were called to the warehouse just before 9 p.m. Saturday because of the leak of anhydrous ammonia from an overhead refrigeration line, Harris County Emergency Services District 48 Fire Chief George McAteer said. He said the refrigeration system had been undergoing maintenance.

Police: Minnesota officer fatally shoots knife-wielding man

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A police officer in Minnesota shot and killed a man who allegedly threatened officers with a knife, police said. The shooting happened about 5 p.m. Saturday in St. Paul. Sgt. Mike Ernster said officers from the St. Paul Police Department were called to an apartment building after a report of a man threatening people with a knife inside a community room. Arriving officers confronted the man and told him to drop the knife. Ernster said the man came toward the officers, one of whom deployed a Taser and the other shot the man, who died at the scene. His name has not been released. The officers, whose names haven't been released, were unhurt. They were placed on administrative leave pending an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Ernster said the officers were wearing body cameras that recorded the confrontation.

Mars Wrigley fined after workers fall into vat of chocolate

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Federal workplace safety authorities have fined a central Pennsylvania confectionary factory more than $14,500 following an accident last year in which two workers fell into a vat of chocolate. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Mars Wrigley in the June accident at the Elizabethtown M&M/Mars factory, saying the workers were not authorized to work in the tanks and weren't trained on the proper safety procedures for the equipment. Officials said two workers employed by an outside contracting firm fell into the partially filled chocolate tank while doing maintenance work. Emergency responders were able to free the pair by cutting a hole in the bottom of the tank, officials said. Both were taken to hospitals, one by helicopter. A company representative told reporters last week that the safety of workers and outside contractors "is a top priority for our business." "As always, we appreciate OSHA's collaborative approach to working with us to conduct the after-action review," the representative said.

Asia

AMID TENSIONS WITH CHINA

US holds drills in South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—The United States Navy and Marine Corps are holding joint exercises in the South China Sea at a time of heightened tensions with Beijing over the shooting down of a suspected Chinese spy balloon.

The 7th Fleet based in Japan said Sunday that the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit have been conducting "integrated expeditionary strike force operations" in the South China Sea.

It said exercises involving ships, ground forces and aircraft took place Saturday but gave no details on when the began or whether they had ended.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and strongly objects to military activity by other nations in the contested waterway through which $5 trillion in goods are shipped every year.

The U.S. takes no official position on sovereignty in the South China Sea, but maintains that freedom of navigation and overflight must be preserved. Several times a year, it sends ships sailing past fortified Chinese outposts in the Spratly Islands, prompting protests from Beijing.

The U.S. has also been strengthening its defense alliance with the Philippines, which has faced encroachment on islands and fisheries by the Chinese coast guard and nominally civilian but government-backed fleets.

The U.S. military exercises were planned in advance. They come as already tense relations between Washington and Beijing have been exacerbated by a diplomatic row sparked by the balloon, which was shot down last weekend in U.S. airspace off the coast of South Carolina.

The U.S. said the unmanned balloon was equipped to detect and collect intelligence signals, but Beijing insists it was a weather research airship that had accidently blown off course.

The balloon prompted Secretary of State Antony Blinken to abruptly cancel a high-stakes trip to Beijing aimed at easing tensions.

After first issuing a highly rare expression of regret over the balloon, China has toughened its rhetoric, calling the U.S. shootdown an overreaction and a violation of international norms. China's defense minister refused to take a phone call from U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to discuss the matter.

The United States has since blacklisted six Chinese entities it said were linked to Beijing's aerospace programs as part of its response to the incident. The House of Representatives also voted unanimously to condemn China for a "brazen violation" of U.S. sovereignty and efforts to "deceive the international community through false claims about its intelligence collection campaigns."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines: China ship hits Filipino crew with laser light

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines on Monday accused a Chinese coast guard ship of hitting a Philippine coast guard vessel with a military-grade laser and temporarily blinding some of its crew in the disputed South China Sea, calling it a "blatant" violation of Manila's sovereign rights. The Chinese ship also maneuvered dangerously close, about 137 meters (449 feet), to block the Philippine patrol vessel BRP Malapascua from approaching Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged reef that has been occupied by Philippine forces, on Feb. 6, the Philippine coast guard said in a statement. The Philippines has filed nearly 200 diplomatic protests against China's aggressive actions in the disputed waters in 2022 alone. China claims the South China Sea virtually in its entirety, putting it on a collision course with other claimants. Despite friendly overtures to Beijing by former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and his successor, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in January in Beijing, tensions have persisted, drawing in closer military alliance between the Philippines and the U.S.= Although the Chinese coast guard had tried to block Philippine coast guard ships in the disputed waters before, this was the first time it used lasers and caused physical suffering among Filipino personnel, Philippine coast guard spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo told The Associated Press. There was no immediate comment from the Chinese Embassy in Manila. "The Chinese ship illuminated the green laser light twice toward the BRP Malapascua, causing temporary blindness to her crew at the bridge," the Philippine statement said. The Philippine vessel was forced to move away from the area, where it was escorting a supply vessel that was delivering food and sailors to a Philippine navy sentry ship, the BRP Sierra Madre, which has been marooned on Second Thomas Shoal since 1999, the coast guard said.

New Zealand city grinds to halt as deluge from cyclone looms

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Auckland residents hunkered down Monday as they braced for a deluge from Cyclone Gabrielle, two weeks after a record-breaking storm swamped New Zealand's largest city and killed four people. Much of Auckland ground to a halt as train services were canceled, libraries and most schools were closed, and authorities asked people to make only essential trips. Air New Zealand canceled all domestic flights to and from Auckland through Tuesday morning, as well as many international flights. Some international routes would continue operating, the airline said, although they might need to be diverted from Auckland. The carrier also canceled domestic flights to and from the cities of Hamilton, Tauranga and Taupo. In all, Air New Zealand canceled more than 500 flights. More than 10,000 international customers had been affected, the airline said, with thousands still to be rebooked. The cyclone, which was moving south, dumped more than 220 millimeters (9 inches) of rain in areas north of Auckland, cutting power to about 58,000 households and forcing many roads to close. About 46,000 homes remained without power Monday afternoon. Authorities declared a state of emergency in Northland, Auckland and some other regions, and were asking some residents in low-lying areas to evacuate. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said the weather had made the start of the year "incredibly challenging" for people in Auckland and other northern areas. "Extreme weather event has come on the back of extreme weather event," Hipkins said. "For families and businesses, I know that that has been just exhausting, and I want to acknowledge how hard many of them are doing it."

World

Grief gives way to anger over Turkey's earthquake response

AP

Sixty-five-year-old Atari Kales mourns for her daughter in law and two grandchildren near the collapsed building that they were trapped in Antakya Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023.

ANTAKYA, Turkey (AP)—When Zafer Mahmut Boncuk's apartment building collapsed in Turkey's devastating earthquake, he discovered his 75-year-old mother was still alive—but pinned under the wreckage.

For hours, Boncuk frantically searched for someone in the ancient, devastated city of Antakya to help him free her. He was able to talk to her, hold her hand and give her water. Despite his pleas, however, no one came, and she died on Tuesday, the day after the quake.

Like many others in Turkey, his sorrow and disbelief have turned to rage over the sense there has been an unfair and ineffective response to the historic disaster that has killed tens of thousands of people there and in Syria.

Boncuk directed his anger at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, especially because she seemed so close to rescue but no one came. Her remains were finally removed Sunday, nearly a week after the building collapsed. His father's body is still in the rubble.

"What would happen if it was your own mother, dear Recep Tayyip Erdogan? What happened to being a world leader? Where are you? Where?" he screamed.

"I gave her water to drink, I cleared her face of rubble. I told her that I would save her. But I failed," said Boncuk, 60. "The last time we spoke, I asked if I should help her drink some water. She said no, so I rubbed some water on her lips. Ten minutes later, she died."

He blamed "ignorance and lack of information and care—that's why my mother died in front of my eyes."

Many in Turkey express similar frustration that rescue operations have been painfully slow since the Feb. 6 quakes and that valuable time was lost during the narrow window for finding people alive.

Others, particularly in southern Hatay province near the Syrian border, say Erdogan's government was late in delivering assistance to the hardest-hit region for what they suspect are both political and religious reasons.

Russia continues to shell Ukraine amid grinding push in east

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces over the weekend continued to shell Ukrainian cities amid a grinding push to seize more land in the east of the country, with Ukrainian officials saying that Moscow is having trouble launching its much-anticipated large-scale offensive there.

One person was killed and one more was wounded on Sunday morning by the shelling of Nikopol, a city in the southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region, Gov. Serhii Lysak reported. The shelling damaged four residential buildings, a vocational school and a water treatment facility.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, one person was wounded after three Russian S-300 missiles hit infrastructure facilities overnight, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. The Russian military said they hit armored vehicle assembly workshops at the Malyshev machinery plant in the city.

Ukrainian forces also downed five drones—four Shahed killer drones and one Orlan-10 reconnaissance drone—over the partially occupied Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions on Saturday evening, Kyiv's military reported.

Overall, Russian forces carried out 12 missile and 32 air strikes in Ukraine over the past 24 hours, as well as over 90 rounds of shelling from multiple rocket launchers, Ukraine's General Staff reported in its daily update.

The attacks come as Russian forces push to take over more land in the eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, comprised of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Ukrainian and Western officials have warned that Russia could launch a new, broad offensive there to try to turn the tide of the conflict as the war approaches the one-year mark.

But Ukrainian officials say that Moscow is having trouble mounting such an offensive.

"They are having big problems with a big offensive," Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, told Ukrainian television on Saturday night.

"They have begun their offensive, they're just not saying they have, and our troops are repelling it very powerfully. The offensive that they planned is already gradually underway. But (it is) not the offensive they were counting on," Danilov said.

Overdrive

Handsome, hybrid Honda Accord accelerates toward electrification

Even the standard, $29k, 2023 Honda Accord EX looks sharp with 17-inch wheels and 1.5-liter turbo-4 under the hood. TNS

BY HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

SAN DIEGO—My 2023 Honda Accord is a looker. From its smoky headlights to its streamlined shoulders to its fastback roof, it is the most handsome sedan Honda has made.

But like the serene blue of the Pacific Ocean out my side window, the Accord's smooth red surface belies the turmoil beneath.

In the U.S., state and federal governments are forcing automakers to go electric and Accord, America's best-selling retail sedan, is on the bleeding edge of what that transition looks like. Now on dealer lots, the Accord has juggled its lineup in order to satisfy government rules, focusing its 11th-generation model on a hybrid-electric powertrain in order to encourage customer adoption.

The hybrid option has accounted for roughly 10% of Accord sales, but Honda is narrowing the choice of drivetrains to meet an ambitious goal of 50% hybrid adoption for its new model and avoid looming federal and California fines coming with 2026 regulations.

Gone is the 2.0-liter, 252-horsepower turbo-4 liter engine beloved by performance enthusiasts. While the sedan's 1.5-liter turbo-4 did volume sales, the beefy 2.0-liter and hybrid offered a fork in the road: an option for performance buyers and one for green customers. Like the hybrid, the 2.0-liter served a passionate niche for about 10%-of-volume with Sport, Sport L, EX-L and Touring models. Now Honda will only offer its 204-horsepower hybrid in upper trims, hoping to keep enthusiasts in the fold with a combination of style, handling, torque and gobsmacking 44 mpg fuel economy.

My crimson, black-trimmed Sport L (L for leather interior) is one saucy sedan.

I was already smitten by the 10th-gen Accord that arrived in my driveway in 2017 like Taylor Swift's "Midnights" album: A blockbuster. The car's athletic stance, fastback and hot wheels—even the sculpted, horizontal interior—rivaled the BMW 3-series that I was also testing.

The last-gen Accord's big black maw was the only dissonant note in the visual symphony. Honda designers have fixed that for the new model. The spare grille is now in sync with the rest of the sculpture, punctuating the thin headlights (different than the last-gen, jewel-like LED peepers). The Accord is a front-wheel-driver per tradition, but it looks like the rear-wheel-drive Bimmer with that long hood and fastback settled over its haunches.

At a time when the Lucid Air and Tesla Model S are setting industry style with spare, simple lines, the Accord fits right in. The rocker panels have been cleaned up, the door handles stripped of keyholes, the rear taillights integrated seamlessly into the bodywork. Body by Jake.

As readers of this column know, I've been writing about the shrinking gap between luxury and mainstream vehicles for some time. Why pay a premium price when a mainstream badge delivers the same style, tech and power for thousands less? Mazda CX-5, Kia Stinger and VW Arteon are vehicles that can compete on spec with luxury vehicles in their segment.

The 252-horse Accord was such a car, its performance on par with a turbo-4-powered Bimmer 5-series costing 20 grand more. No more. The Accord's 204-horse hybrid and 181-horse turbo-4 are solid mainstream numbers similar to competitors Hyundai Sonata and Toyota Camry.

Honda's customers are largely unaware of the extreme regulatory pressure automakers are under. So it's up to Honda to make the regulations seem as unobtrusive as possible even as choices dry up for the internal combustion engines customers prefer.

In Honda's favor: governments are forcing ALL brands into similar battery-powered drivetrains. So luxury makers are also fast losing what differentiates them: sophisticated, smooth, inline-6 cylinder and V-8 drivetrains.

Accord wants to use the hybrid as a bridge to electric propulsion, and it deploys some cool tech to hook you.

I exited my hotel parking lot north of San Diego on battery power just like my Tesla Model 3. Assuming moderate temperatures and light right-foot application, Accord will stay in EV mode until about 25 mph, at which point the 2.0-liter, inline-4-banger kicks in. EV MODE text lights up the lovely digital instrument display alongside a battery indicator to emphasize the point.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **2023 Honda Accord**
- **Vehicle type:** Front engine, front-wheel-drive five-passenger sedan
- **Price:** $29,485, including $1,095 destination fee ($35,425 Sport L and $38,985 Touring as tested)
- **Powerplants:** 1.5-liter, turbocharged inline-4 cylinder; gas-electric hybrid with 2.0-liter inline-4 cylinder and electric motor
- **Power:** 181 horsepower, 192 pound-feet torque (turbo-4); 204 horsepower, 247 pound-feet torque (hybrid)
- **Transmission:** Continuously-variable transmission (turbo-4); Single-speed transmission (hybrid)
- **Performance:** 0-60 mph, 7.1 seconds (hybrid, Car and Driver); range, 563 miles (hybrid)
- **Weight:** 3,488 pounds (Sport L Hybrid as tested)
- **Fuel economy:** EPA est. mpg 46 city/41 highway/44 combined (Sport L Hybrid as tested)
- **Report card**
- **Highs:** Lovely inside and out; sharp handling
- **Lows:** Wireless smartphone apps not offered on entry-level trims; fewer engine choices
- **Overall:** 3 stars

Why is car using so much oil?

Q: I have a 2015 Audi Q5. The oil light goes on indicating it needs a quart of oil. We add the quart, but after approximately 800-1,000 miles, it calls for more oil. This continues and we have had two mechanics and the dealer look at the car, and no one can figure out what the problem is. There is no oil leak in the garage or driveway. The car has approximately 63,000 miles and seems to be running fine. We can't figure out what the problem is. Any ideas as to what we should do? I am thinking of selling the car in the next few months and would like to get this figured out.

—S.B., West Hartford, Connecticut

A: All engines use some oil. They need to. But some use more than others. You may not care to hear this, but the industry considers one quart every 1,000 miles acceptable. Go ahead and sell the car without regrets.

■■■

Q: I own a 2018 Hyundai Sonata. At around 49,000 miles, upon an oil change, the service center notified me that I had no oil on the dipstick. I bring it to them every 3,000 to 4,000 miles. Just before bringing it back to them, I checked the dipstick. It barely registered. The Hyundai dealership told me that they allow a loss of one quart of oil per 1,000 miles. Do you agree with this? I find this to be terribly wrong guidance on smart engine maintenance.

—R.M., Park Forest, Illinois

A: See the item above. This is why there's a dipstick and why you should check it regularly. I like to check my oil while filling the tank.

■■■

Q: In the Tribune recently, a question arose regarding intermittent failure of a fuse in a 2011 Toyota Avalon causing dome lights and other lights to stop operating. I agree totally with changing the fuse to a slow-blow as a test. In my industry, we have experienced the same, but in other devices. Fuses can last a day or months. A common cause is the fuse holder. If the connection between the fuse and holder is not super-tight, the connection can heat excessively causing the fusing element to melt. One manufacturer on my end recommended replacing holders. However, it is easier to replace a fuse holder in an appliance than a car, but that is not my problem (LOL).

—P.B., Burbank, Illinois

A: Many appliances still use tube-shaped fuses, the kind with metal caps on either end of a glass cylinder. In the auto industry, blade style fuses rule. These are less prone to losing good contact with the fuse holder, but it could still happen.

■■■

Q: I have a 2007 Mini Cooper S with a dim left rear taillight. The brake light works fine as does the turn signal. I changed the bulb with a new one noticing that there was a hint of gray in the old bulb and the new one does the same thing — dimly lit but the other functions are fine. Being a retired cop, I don't want to be guilty of not having a taillight working but I don't know where to go from here. By the way, I never gave anybody a ticket for a taillight being dim (LOL).

—P.L., New Lenox, Illinois

A: Two LOLs in a row? Joy abounds. A dim taillight is often due to a bad electrical ground. There might be a loose or corroded connection. Your mechanic can chase it down and bring more joy.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Pregnant Rihanna soars in Super Bowl halftime performance

By ANDREW DALTON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Rihanna was above it all. And pregnant to boot.

She began and ended the Super Bowl 57 halftime show hovering high above the field at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

The performance lacked the surprise guests stars included in many previous Super Bowl halftimes, save one—her representative revealed afterward that the singer is pregnant with her second child.

Rihanna wore a puffy, bright red jumpsuit with tight, rubbery garb underneath that showed a baby bump that fueled a wave of social media speculation until the big revelation. She stood on a transparent rectangular platform that raised and lowered as she belted out the lyrics to "Bitch Better Have My Money" over the turf where the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs were battling moments earlier.

Dancers wearing white ski-style suits and shaded goggles had their own suspended platforms that moved in concert with hers.

She and the dancers were lowered to a long stage that matched her outfit as she sped through hits including "Work," "Where Have You Been," and "Only Girl," belting out "Want you to make me feel like I'm the only girl in the world."

There were also none of the constant costume changes and scene shifts from previous years. The theme —and the color scheme— stayed the same throughout the 13-minute show, with red lights bathing the stage at times and golden fireworks exploding in the air above her.

The long stage allowed for extended pull-away shots as she stared down the camera and overhead tracking shots of Rihanna and her dancers.

At one point she powdered her face and checked it in a mirror before getting back on the mic.

Lights sparkled from the stands as she was hoisted alone back into the air and sang "Diamonds"—with its refrain of "shine bright like a diamond"—as the set closed.

AP

Rihanna performs during the halftime show at the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz.

Rihanna's performance was her first solo performance event in seven years, and her first since becoming a mother for the first time nine months ago.

A SIMPLY SPANGLED BANNER

Country star Chris Stapleton made the national anthem a simple affair at Super Bowl 57, standing alone on the field accompanied by only his electric guitar as he sang "The Star Spangled Banner" moments before the Kansas City Chiefs kickoff to the Philadelphia Eagles to start the game.

Dressed simply in smooth black denim and sunglasses, with neatly combed hair instead of his signature feathered cowboy hat, he sang the anthem as a plaintive ballad, picking it up to rock only briefly as he delivered the final lines "banner yet wave" and "land of the free!"

His anthem felt slow, but it clocked in at 2 minutes, 2 seconds, under the 2 minutes, 5 seconds predicted by oddsmakers. But it was more than 10 seconds longer than last year's sung by another country star, Mickey Guyton.

Eagles coach Nick Sirianni and starting center Jason Kelce both had tears in their eyes during Stapleton's emotional performance.

As the eight-time Grammy winner sang, "CODA" star Troy Kotsur, the first deaf man to win an acting Oscar, signed the anthem lyrics.

Super Bowl ads use celebs, humor, lots of dogs

NEW YORK (AP)—Advertisers bet big that viewers were turning to the Super Bowl for a comforting escape, and delivered a series of advertisements that relied on familiar celebrity faces, light humor, and plenty of cuddly dogs.

This wasn't a year for edgy humor or experimentation. After the global pandemic, with economic uncertainty looming ahead and the war in Ukraine stretching on, advertisers just wanted people to feel good.

And it worked.

"This year's ads took a very light touch and focused on being fun and making the viewer feel good," said Charles Taylor, marketing professor at Villanova University. "Most followed a clear formula of combining A-list celebrities with humor, with some using nostalgia and/or music to good effect."

AP

This photo provided by Avocados From Mexico shows a scene from Avocados From Mexico Super Bowl NFL football spot.

Super Bowl advertisers each year try to reach the more than 100 million people tuning into the broadcast. It's a pricey proposition: ads can cost as much as $7 million for 30 seconds.

It was a year of change for the Super Bowl since other alcohol ads were allowed to air after Anheuser-Bush gave up its exclusivity deal and the halftime show sponsor changed from Pepsi to Apple music after a decade.

Octogenarian aims to make first date a memorable one

DEAR ABBY: I am an 80-year-old senior man who has met, texted daily and called an 80-year-old woman for the last six weeks. We both look and think young for our ages as well. We plan to have our first date on a Valentine's Day theme. It's awkward not knowing what to do when we have our first date. She says "friends first," and I agree, but we are highly compatible based on our communications.

Because our first date will be on Valentine's Day, she said she wants to see if there is chemistry. I'm conflicted about whether to give her a flower or flowers. Would it be appropriate to have a single long-stemmed rose in my car and, if she's interested in a second date or we both feel chemistry, use "The Bachelor" TV show idea of asking her if she will accept the rose for a second date? I know it may sound cliche, but I'm reluctant to take the rose to the table. Yes, some of us seniors want to be romantic, but we are still concerned about what's acceptable in today's dating world.

UNCLEAR IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNCLEAR: I love your letter and I like your style. When you go to the table, have a small box of chocolates to present to your lady friend. The idea of keeping a long-stemmed rose concealed in your car is charming, as long as you keep the stem in water so it won't wilt while you're having dinner, which would be very unromantic. Please let me know how the date goes. I wish you luck.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son's bar mitzvah was two months ago. We had 125 guests. My son received a gift from everyone except my boss, "Hal." I have known Hal most of my life. He used to work with my grandfather, and he's like a family member.

Hal is extremely generous and would certainly have given my son a gift, so I know this is simply an oversight on his part. There's also a slight chance we lost his gift amidst the chaos of the event. Should I gently mention this to him or just let it go?

PROUD PAPA IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR PAPA: If it were me -- and my child had received gifts from 124 guests at his bar mitzvah -- I would be inclined to let it go. However, if you feel you must pursue this, approach it by telling Hal you are embarrassed but some of your son's gift cards got mixed up "in the chaos." Add that he needs to write thank-you notes, so what should Hal be thanked for?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live with my two older sisters. One is 18, and the other is 17. We go to dance parties on Saturday nights. My sisters want to dance up on the stage, but they just wibble-wobble all over the place. They're not good at it at all. Should I just pretend I don't know them, or what? I don't want to embarrass or insult them.

BETTER DANCER IN OHIO

DEAR DANCER: It should not embarrass or insult them if you offer to show them some "different" dance moves. In fact, it would be doing them a favor. However, if they refuse, then drop the matter and refrain from criticizing them for their performance because nobody wants a bad review. Trust me on that.

■ ■ ■ ■

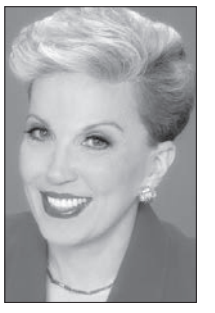
DEAR READERS: On this day that celebrates love, I want to express how much I cherish the relationship I have with you. Wishing all of you a Happy Valentine's Day. -- LOVE, ABBY

■ ■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

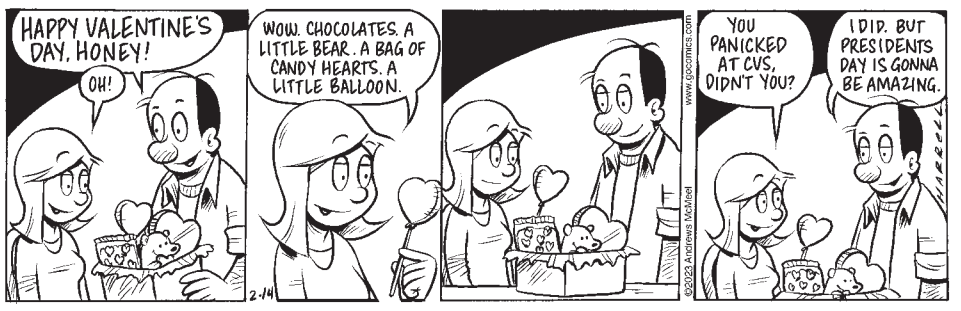
LOOK AT THAT!
AN ANGEL.
IT MUST BE A FALLEN ANGEL! GENERALLY THEY BURN UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE, BUT THIS ONE APPARENTLY VAPORIZED ON IMPACT, LEAVING THIS ANGEL-SHAPED CRATER IN THE SNOW!
THERE ARE MORE OVER THERE.
GOD MUST'VE BEEN PUNTING ANGELS LEFT AND RIGHT.
STRANGE THAT THERE WOULD BE SO MANY IN SUSIE'S FRONT YARD.
I'LL BET THEY'RE ALL RELATED TO HER.
© 1993 Watterson/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, HONEY!
OH!
WOW. CHOCOLATES. A LITTLE BEAR. A BAG OF CANDY HEARTS. A LITTLE BALLOON.
YOU PANICKED AT CVS, DIDN'T YOU?
I DID. BUT PRESIDENTS DAY IS GONNA BE AMAZING.
2-14
©2023 Andrews McMeel
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TODAY'S FEBRUARY 14th. SHOULD WE PUT UP VALENTINE DECORATIONS?
NO. TOO MUCH HASSLE.
I'LL JUST PUT A CUPID'S DIAPER ON OUR PLASTIC SANTA OUT FRONT.
2-14

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tolstoy's Karenina
5 Hollywood's Thurman
8 Campus area
12 Katy Perry hit song
13 Crib
14 Celestial bear
15 Serenade, often
17 Mountain ht.
18 Miner's find
19 Trail the pack
20 Analyze
21 Parking place
22 Potent stick
23 Fancy neckwear
26 High school science course
30 Actor Schreiber
31 Romance
32 Bassoon relative
33 Nest locale
35 Madonna role
36 Fiddle stick
37 "Norma —"
38 Jeans material
41 PC alternative
42 "Terrif!"
45 Air freshener target
46 Valentine card sign-off
48 "Zounds!"
49 Super serve
50 Buffalo's county
51 Sleep phenomena
52 Ballot markings
53 Sports figure?

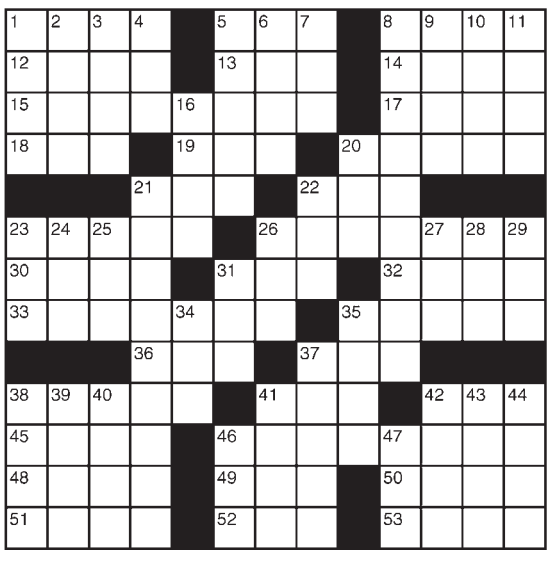
DOWN

1 Singer Guthrie
2 Former queen of Jordan
3 Cathedral area
4 "— you sleeping?"
5 WWII sub
6 Chinese dynasty
7 Director Lee
8 Cofounder and drummer of "The Roots"
9 Web addresses
10 On the briny
11 Folk hero Crockett
16 Small opening
20 Year in Cancún
21 Amorous couple
22 Uncle (Sp.)
23 PC key
24 Polite address
25 Middling grade
26 Jazzy style
27 Kimono sash
28 Understood
29 Verily
31 Dazzle
34 Male turkey
35 Apiece
37 Hotel posting
38 Active person
39 Perimeter
40 Linguist Chomsky
41 Maze runners
42 Garrison
43 Athletic shoe brand
44 Borscht base
46 Letter sealer
47 Guitar great Paul

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	A	I			!	F	S		E	K	E	D
A	C	M	E		A	L	E		M	E	G	A
S	L	A	M		N	O	W		I	G	G	Y
T	U	N	I	S		P	U	R	L			
			L	A	P		P	A	Y	E	E	S
O	P	T	I	M	A	L		M	I	L	A	N
R	A	R	A		W	A	G		N	O	R	A
B	R	A	C	E		Y	A	P	P	I	N	G
S	T	Y	L	E	S		B	E	A			
			A	N	O	N		T	R	I	A	D
C	H	A	R		L	E	G		I	D	L	E
!	M	O	K		T	R	U		S	O	A	R
S	O	L	E		!	D	S			L	I	N

Yesterday's answer 2-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Danai Gurira, 45; Simon Pegg, 53; Meg Tilly, 63; Terry Gross, 72.

Happy Birthday: Be aware of the changes around you. You'll figure out how to turn a negative into a positive. It's up to you to create opportunities and take responsibility for your happiness. Be open about your plans and how you intend to use your skills to increase your income. A resourceful approach to life will make the changes you face easier. Your numbers are 4, 12, 22, 29, 34, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Connect with people you know you can count on, then create a plan. A joint venture will offer greater opportunities than you anticipate, helping with cash flow and long-term effects. Surprise everyone with your ingenuity; you will impress someone influential. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: If you ask questions, you will find out what you want to know. It might be easier to make decisions once you know where you stand and what others are willing to contribute. Maintaining equality will be essential to making progress. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what others expect and move on to the things you enjoy doing most. Think about the process involved in reaching your target. You'll be able to draw on your experience and knowledge to get things done in record time. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Accept what's happening around you. Change can be good if you structure it properly. Be part of whatever transition is heading your way; it will be easier for you to carry on without setbacks or concerns. Express your love for someone special. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take responsibility, alter what you don't like and push forward until you are satisfied with the results. Put time aside to spend with someone special. The discussion you have will decide what comes next. Live in the moment and enjoy life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your message consistent. Reaching out beyond the call of duty can make a difference for someone less fortunate than you. Love is in the stars and will motivate you to do fun things with someone special. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Watch your step, but keep moving toward your destination. Be observant and research opportunities. Dedicate your time, skills and experience to something that interests you. Discuss emotional issues in person. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Your imagination won't disappoint you. If you find a way to please someone you love, your gesture will get a standing ovation. It's OK to think big, but don't go over budget when it comes to following through. Have fun, but play it safe. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Channel emotional energy into something meaningful. Show how much you care, share your intentions and be open and honest about life. Change begins with you; refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans or push you in an undesired direction. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be true to yourself and do things to suit your needs. A unique approach will give you the edge you need to outmaneuver anyone who cares to stand in your way. Share your intentions and spice up your personal life. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Give your all, and something good will transpire. Aggressive action will help tie up loose ends while you outmaneuver anyone who gets in your way. Trust in your ability, follow your heart and pursue the people and pastimes you love. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Precision and honoring your promises will draw others to your side. You'll gain support and assistance if you know what will help you pursue your goals. Size up situations and leave nothing to chance. An optimistic attitude will attract a positive response. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are courageous, inventive and trendy. You are willful and competent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	5	8			9		2
			9	2	4	6	3	
4			6		3	8		
9		4	5				8	
		3	1		8			4
	1		2	4				3
5	3			8	1	4		9
		8	4				5	
					5	7		

Difficulty: ★★ 2-14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

6	3	9	5	4	7	2	8	1
2	1	8	3	6	9	4	7	5
4	5	7	1	2	8	6	9	3
5	7	4	8	1	2	3	6	9
3	9	6	7	5	4	1	2	8
1	8	2	9	3	6	5	4	7
9	6	3	4	7	5	8	1	2
8	2	1	6	9	3	7	5	4
7	4	5	2	8	1	9	3	6

Difficulty: ★ 2-13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SOLID RELATIONSHIPS **Solution: 8 letters**

C	C	C	Y	L	I	M	A	F	B	A	T	T	C	R
B	O	O	K	S	C	A	L	M	E	R	F	S	O	E
L	N	M	A	L	O	V	E	K	E	I	P	M	M	S
N	N	F	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	A	N	P	P
I	E	O	T	U	E	L	T	E	C	N	T	C	R	O
C	C	R	S	G	N	M	L	I	T	S	E	S	O	N
K	T	T	U	H	E	I	A	I	A	H	N	D	M	S
N	I	A	R	N	M	L	C	L	E	A	D	N	I	I
A	O	B	T	S	S	K	L	A	T	R	E	E	S	B
M	N	L	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	E	R	I	E	L
Ⓔ	S	E	G	S	E	C	U	R	E	I	D	R	E	E
S	Ⓡ	A	N	O	I	T	A	D	N	U	O	F	F	E
S	T	Ⓐ	B	I	L	I	T	Y	A	L	P	N	I	R
S	L	A	Ⓒ	C	E	P	T	I	N	G	O	A	L	F
P	I	H	S	R	E	N	T	R	A	P	E	A	C	E

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Accepting, Books, Calm, Care, Comfortable, Communication, Compromise, Connections, Core, Family, Foundation, Free, Friends, Gift, Goal, Last, Laugh, Life, Like, Love, Marriage, Nicknames, Partnership, Peace, Plans, Play, Respect, Responsible, Romantic, Secure, Share, Smile, Special, Stability, Stages, Talks, Tender, Treatment, Trust

Yesterday's Answer: Wallflower

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

White's 23 points helps Celtics past Grizzlies, 119-109

BOSTON (AP)—Derrick White scored 23 points to help a shorthanded Boston team hold off Ja Morant and the Memphis Grizzlies 119-109 on Sunday.

Sam Hauser added 20 points, tying his career-high with six 3-pointers, Al Horford had 16 points and Payton Pritchard added 12 for Boston, which won its fourth straight. Celtics star Jayson Tatum didn't have his sharpest game, finishing with 16 points but making 3 of 16 shots and missing 7 of 8 on 3-point attempts.

"That's the beauty of this team," said White, who also had 10 assists. "We're just so deep. We've got a lot of guys that can do a little bit of everything."

Morant led the Grizzlies with 25 points, seven assists and six rebounds, while Desmond Bane scored 18 and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 15 points and seven rebounds.

Boston was without starting point guard Marcus Smart, who missed his 10th straight with a bone bruise in his right ankle, as well as forward Jaylen Brown (facial fracture he suffered from an inadvertent elbow by Tatum) and reserve guard Malcolm Brogdon (sore Achilles).

Boston moved to 1 1/2 games ahead of the idle Bucks for the Eastern Conference's best record ahead of their matchup in Milwaukee on Tuesday.

The Celtics were clinging to a one-point lead early in the final quarter before White scored six points—with a conventional three-point play and 3-pointer from the right wing—during a 16-7 spurt that moved them ahead 104-94 with just over four minutes to play.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives toward the basket past Memphis Grizzlies forward Brandon Clarke, left, in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Boston.

"We have some of our top dogs out now and it's just an opportunity for guys to showcase what they can do," Hauser said. "Try to fill that void of the guys that were out. They bring a lot to the table. We try to do our best to do whatever we can to help the team win."

Horford nailed three 3-pointers in the final five minutes.

Trailing by 13 at halftime, the Grizzlies used a 13-point third quarter by Morant that featured one-handed driving baskets, flips in the lane and twisting shots to wipe out the deficit, taking the lead briefly late in the third,

Morant said last month that he wasn't worried about facing any team in the West in the playoffs. He brought it up again Sunday.

"The confidence I had when I said that is the confidence that got us to the point where we're at now—being one of the top teams in this league," he said.

RAPTORS 119, PISTONS 118

TORONTO (AP)—Fred VanVleet scored 35 points, topping 30 for a career-best ninth time this season, and Pascal Siakam added 28 points as the Toronto Raptors beat the Detroit Pistons 119-118 Sunday for their fourth win in five games.

Scottie Barnes scored 20 points and Precious Achiuwa had 11 points and 11 rebounds as Toronto won its second straight win over Detroit after losing the previous six meetings.

VanVleet and the Raptors bounced back after blowing a 12-point lead in the final five minutes of Friday's home loss to Utah.

"That hurt," VanVleet. "Everyone was frustrated for sure, but the game goes on. We've got to stay focussed on the games in front of us and pile them up as best as we can."

Toronto is 20-7 all-time when VanVleet scores 30 or more points. Siakam has scored 25 or more in three straight games.

"It's certainly a treat to have two guys out there who you can coach the team through," said Toronto assistant coach Adrian Griffin, who led the Raptors Sunday with head coach Nick Nurse away for personal reasons.

Detroit's Dwane Casey worked with both Siakam and VanVleet when he was head coach in Toronto.

"They were the difference in the game," Casey said of Toronto's duo. "They carried the team, they did a great job."

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 33 points, Alec Burks had 21, and Hamidou Diallo and Jaden Ivey each had 18 for the Pistons. Detroit failed once again to win consecutive games for the second time this season.

Detroit beat San Antonio in double overtime Friday in a matchup of two of the NBA's worst teams. The Pistons haven't won back-to-back games since victories at Denver and Utah on Nov. 22 and 23, following all 10 wins since with defeats.

Ivey's 3-pointer with 10.1 seconds left in the fourth quarter cut it to 116-113 before VanVleet answered with a pair of free throws.

Bogdanovic hit two free throws, but Achiuwa made one of two at the line to put Toronto up by four points with 4.4 seconds left. Ivey's 3 at the buzzer wasn't enough for Detroit.

Pistons center Jalen Duren injured his right ankle in the second quarter, but returned to start the second half. The rookie teenager scored a career-high 30 points Friday. The 19-year-old Duren finished with six points in 21 minutes.

"He turned it pretty good," Casey said. "Just trying to go up and down the floor and when they were attacking the rim, he just couldn't pivot and move. Hopefully it's not something that's long lasting."

Toronto scored 14 points off 18 Detroit turnovers. The Raptors allowed a season-low five points off their eight turnovers.

"We've just got to be smarter with the ball, stronger with the ball," Casey said. "A lot of our turnovers were self-inflicted, throwing it to nobody, throwing it to air."

Raptors center Jakob Poeltl started for the first time in two games since rejoining the team that drafted him. He took the spot of guard Gary Trent Jr., who sat because of a sore left calf.

Toronto held a 53-52 edge at halftime and took an 85-77 lead to the fourth.

NBA BRIEFS

Scan on LeBron James' sore left foot shows no serious damage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A scan done on LeBron James' troublesome left ankle and foot showed no serious issue, but the newly crowned NBA career scoring leader sat out a second straight game Saturday night since breaking Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's mark earlier in the week. Still, coach Darvin Ham expects to see James back on the floor before the All-Star break. When asked whether James might need to be sidelined through the break, Ham offered, "No, I don't think he'll allow us to do that." General manager Rob Pelinka said earlier Saturday that nothing was seriously wrong for James, who topped former Lakers star Abdul-Jabbar during Tuesday's 133-130 home loss to Oklahoma City. "LeBron did have some imaging on his foot injury, and we're grateful that things came back clean and good." Pelinka said. The game with Golden State— missing reigning NBA Finals MVP Stephen Curry because of a left leg injury—marked James' seventh sidelined by soreness in the left ankle. He also missed one game with left foot soreness and another because of a non-COVID illness. He also sat out five games with a strained left inner thigh muscle. "Just for him to continue to get treatment, stay off of it," Ham said of the plan. "Obviously we made moves and one of the biggest moves is making sure we're not putting him in a position where we're putting him at risk of a bigger issue." James has what Ham called "normal wear and tear, little irritated in one area." The 38-year-old James has made his 19th straight All-Star team and has 38,390 career points. "We're just taking this time that we have to get him treated and hopefully get him back so we can make a good run and he can be in the midst of it down the stretch," Ham said.

Warriors go through with four-team trade, acquiring Payton

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Golden State Warriors have decided to go through with completion of a trade to acquire Gary Payton II from Portland despite concerns that arose surrounding the guard's health following offseason surgery for a core muscle injury that sidelined him until last month. A person with direct knowledge of the situation said Sunday that the Warriors spoke to the NBA about how the Trail Blazers handled the deal and information about the medical situation for Payton, whose physical Friday brought up issues that put the trade in jeopardy. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no details of the negotiations and discussions were made public. The defending champions had until Sunday night to make a decision whether to rescind the swap that sent center James Wiseman to Detroit. Golden State also will receive unprotected 2026 and '28 second-round draft picks from Portland while giving up Memphis' 2026 second-round pick and its own 2028 second-round selection to Portland. The Pistons traded forward Saddiq Bey to the Hawks and the Blazers acquire forward Kevin Knox II from the Detroit along with three conditional second-round picks from the Hawks. The 30-year-old Payton played a key role as a defensive stopper for Golden State during last season's title run and would immediately provide backcourt depth with Stephen Curry sidelined at least until after the All-Star break with a left leg injury. Payton's status for the rest of the season is unclear. He played against Golden State in a win Wednesday night at Portland before rejoining his former team ahead of the trade deadline a day later. Payton is averaging 4.1 points, 2.6 rebounds and 1.5 assists over 15 games.

Source: Cavaliers close to deal with veteran Danny Green

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers are trying to finalize a contract agreement with veteran swingman Danny Green, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Sunday. A three-time NBA champion, Green began his pro career with Cleveland in 2009. The 35-year-old Green will sign with the Cavaliers if the sides can "work through details," according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team is not commenting on its interest in him. Green posted about his status on Twitter, saying, "It's not done yet ... ." A well-respected player, Green would give the young Cavs another outside shooter and bring more postseason experience to a team trying to get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2018. He has appeared in 165 playoff games. Cleveland has won six straight and currently is the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference standings. Green became available after working out a contract buyout from Houston, which acquired him at the trade deadline from Memphis. He played in just three games with the Grizzlies this season after tearing knee ligaments during the playoffs last season with the Philadelphia 76ers. The Cavaliers didn't make any moves at the deadline, but president of basketball operations Koby Altman said the team would explore the buyout market. Green has averaged 12.4 points and 4.9 rebounds over 14 seasons with the Cavs, Spurs, Raptors, Lakers, Sixers and Grizzlies. He has made 39.9% percent of his career 3-pointers. Green played college ball at North Carolina.

Sato, Miller top Run for the Red 5K

MARK RABAGO

Participants of the inaugural American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Run for the Red 5K fundraiser pose for a group photo after the event last Saturday at the airport field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kosuke Sato and Akiko Miller ran for a good cause and won the race too, as Sato came in first place in the men's open division and Miller came in first in the women's open of the inaugural American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Run for the Red 5K fundraiser last Saturday at the airport field.

Sato came in first with a sub 20-minute 5K—19:46, followed closely by Sildrey Veloria's 19:54 time, then Chong Nam Lee's 22:25.

Sato said it's been a while since he's joined a 5K race but that he decided to come out and support the Red Cross.

Miller crossed the finish line with a time of 21:19, second was Tiana Cabrera in 23:26, and third was Terra Allen in 24:25. Miller had also taken a break from competing as she is recovering from a knee injury, but decided to support the Red Cross as well. She added that the course was easy as it was level almost throughout the whole race.

The race was also open to children and for moms with strollers and their babies. As such, the winner of the male 12U division was Derence Benjamin with a time of 27:39; second place was Ray Patrick McDonald with a time of 31:35; and third place was Rafael Ulrich Servito with a time of 37:59.

In the stroller division, Jaymie Kanda and her daughter crossed the finish line together with a time of 44:01, followed by Jaymie's sister, Erin, with a time of 44:25. Third place was a tie between Daisy Babauta and her child and Becky Mettao and her child at 58:06.

Friendly sibling rivalry was Jaymie's motivation as she said all she was thinking about was crossing the finish line first than her sister. She said the grass portion of the course was the hardest to push her 40-lb daughter through, but that it was nice coming out to support the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter partnered with Run Saipan for their inaugural 5K run and walk event with over 150 registrants and close to that number of runners on race day.

After the race, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said that the event was successful and that he was excited to have collaborated with the Run Saipan team, Dr. Ron Snyder, Robin Sapong, and Edward Dela Cruz Jr.

RUN RED5K

"Their whole team really came out in force and helped us set up. Also, a deep appreciation to the Commonwealth Ports Authority for helping us with the traffic control this morning and everyone who came out—all the runners, all the volunteers, all our collaborators Marianas Health Services and the Commonwealth Health Center." He also thanked Docomo Pacific, Department of Public Safety, and CPA's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting.

"We're really just thrilled to really be working with Run Saipan. Anything that we can do to get people moving and get their hearts going, getting them more physically fit is a great thing for the Red Cross and great for our Commonwealth," said Hirsh.

Snyder said the partnership with the Red Cross was great and hoped that it will not be the last. "It's been great working with them, the course was beautiful, the support that they brought in with the trailers, with Docomo's cheering squad, it was amazing and it makes all the events better when we have that support."

There was also a raffle done with E-Land Group's donation prizes of pool passes and brunch vouchers from Kensington, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/nmi.

MAHOMES

From Page 20

the second half after reaggravating a sprained right ankle.

"It took everybody to win the game," Mahomes shouted as red and yellow confetti littered the field.

Coach Andy Reid, who couldn't win the big game in Philadelphia, beat his former team to earn his second ring with Mahomes and the Chiefs.

"We wanted to get this so bad for him," Travis Kelce said. "His legacy in Philly lives on forever. ... There's a lot of pride in knowing that he's had success in two different organizations, but this was the better one."

With the score tied at 35-35, the Eagles tried to let the Chiefs score a touchdown with under two minutes left so they could get the ball back after a defensive holding call on cornerback James Bradberry on third-and-8 gave Kansas City a first down. But Jerick McKinnon slid at the 2, forcing the Eagles to use their last timeout.

"It was holding. I tugged his jersey. I was hoping they would let it slide," Bradberry said.

After Mahomes took a knee twice, Butker nailed his kick, sending thousands of red-clad Chiefs fans into a frenzy.

"It feels amazing just to see the confetti," said Butker, who missed a 42-yarder in the first quarter. "I just tried to focus on one kick and focusing on the process."

The Chiefs won their second Super Bowl following the 2019 season, 50 years after the first one. Mahomes led them back from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter against San Francisco in that one. It took just three years to get another Lombardi.

Chiefs fans were outnumbered in the stadium, but did their part to silence the boisterous Philly fans with the tomahawk chop chant.

Down 24-14 with a limping Mahomes, the Chiefs (17-3) followed up Rihanna's electrifying halftime performance with a sensational offensive outburst.

Mahomes, who suffered a high ankle sprain in the divisional round, hurt it again on a 3-yard scramble late in the second quarter. He limped off the field but showed no ill effects on Kansas City's next possession.

"I knew it was pretty bad when he got up limping but I knew it wasn't gonna be bad enough to where he was gonna pull himself off the field," Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy said. "If we would've pulled him off, I would've had to fight him. He would've probably fought me. And so it wasn't worth entertaining."

Mahomes slipped—several players lost their footing on the natural grass surface—in the pocket yet somehow regained his balance and scrambled 14 yards to the Eagles 4, setting up Isiah Pacheco's 1-yard TD run that cut the deficit to 24-21.

SUPER

From Page 20

2 minutes left in a 35-all game as Kansas City was driving for the go-ahead score.

Harrison Butker provided it with his 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds to go.

"I told you all this week there's nothing that's going to keep me off that football field," said Mahomes, who hurt the ankle in the divisional round against Jacksonville. "I just want a shoutout to my teammates — we challenged each other, we needed everyone to win this football game — so shoutout to my teammates. We're Super Bowl champs!"

Mahomes helped the Chiefs end a 50-year title drought when he led the Chiefs past the 49ers in 2020. Three years later, the do-everything quarterback has delivered a third Lombardi Trophy to Kansas City while joining Tom Brady, Joe Montana, Bart Starr, Eli Manning and Terry Bradshaw as the only players to win multiple Super Bowl MVPs.

"He strives to be the greatest, without saying anything," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "That's the way he works. He wants to be the greatest player ever."

Mahomes reinjured his ankle late in the first half Sunday when Eagles linebacker T.J. Edwards spun him to the ground. He lay there for several seconds before hobbling off the field in a scene eerily reminiscent of earlier in the playoffs.

Mahomes said he didn't get a painkilling shot at halftime, but he no doubt benefited from a longer halftime to allow for Rihanna's performance. And by the time the field was cleared of the stage, No. 15 was at the head of the pack as he led the Chiefs back to the field, facing a 24-14 deficit but knowing they would get the opening kickoff.

Mahomes promptly marched them 75 yards and Isiah Pacheco crashed into the end zone to close within 24-21. When the Eagles answered with a field goal, Mahomes led another 75-yard TD march. And a 65-yard punt return by Kadarius Toney set up Mahomes' 4-yard TD toss to a wide-open Skyy Moore that made it 35-27 in the fourth quarter.

Mahomes' final scoring drive was pure guts.

The Eagles had just scored and made the 2-point conversion to knot the game 35-all with 5:15 left when Mahomes hit JuJu Smith-Schuster for a first down. He completed another pass to Travis Kelce, then Mahomes escaped on a long scramble — just like his one that set up their winning field goal against the Bengals in the AFC title game.

This time, the Chiefs kept going. They benefited from a defensive holding call on third-and-8 against Eagles cornerback James Bradberry, then got down to the goal line before killing the clock and sending Butker onto the field for what turned out to be the winning field goal.

QUESTIONABLE

From Page 20

remaining when Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw incomplete to JuJu Smith-Schuster. But officials flagged Bradberry for defensive holding, which negated the incompletion and, more importantly, gave the Chiefs a first down.

Replays showed that Bradberry made light contact with Smith-Schuster, though it didn't appear to affect the play much.

Many fans—and some football commentators—disagreed with the call. Former NFL tight end Greg Olsen wasn't happy with the decision on the Fox broadcast and ESPN and Amazon analyst Kirk Herbstreit was also critical on social media.

The only person who didn't seem upset with the call was Bradberry himself.

"It was a holding. I tugged his jersey," Bradberry said. "I was hoping they would let it slide."

Referee Carl Cheffers said it was a "clear case of a jersey grab."

"The receiver went to the inside and he was attempting to release to the outside," Cheffers told a pool reporter. "The defender grabbed the jersey with his right hand and restricted him from releasing to the outside. So, therefore, we called defensive holding."

Kansas City was able to essentially run out the clock from that point forward. Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon made a smart move on the ensuing down, purposefully sliding 2 yards short of the goal line instead of scoring a touchdown.

MANTAS

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High School Lady Ayuyus came in last and clocked in at 08:21.850 for 1 point.

In the 500m event prior to this, the Lady Dolphins dominated the prelims, but fell to second place in the finals with a time of 03:34.280 behind the Lady Mantas' time of 03:23.060. The Lady Ayuyus came in at 03:36.540.

The Lady Mantas were right behind the Lady Dolphins in the standings with 14 points after a 6-point grab in the 1,000m race and an 8 point total in the 500m race.

The Lady Ayuyus trail the two teams with 4 points after getting 2 points in both the 500m and 1,000m race.

In the mixed 500m finals, both SSHS boys and girls powered through to first place with a time of 03:18.400. MHS beat KHS for second place with a close time of 03:20.170 and 03:30.480 respectively.

In the last race of the day in the 1,000m mixed finals, the Mantas won first again, followed by the Ayuyus, then the Dolphins.

After the races, the Mantas lead the mixed division with a perfect 20 points, with the Dolphins and Ayuyus tied with 8 points each.

Super Bowl Monday didn't disappoint

By MARK RABAGO
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MARK RABAGO

Former CNMI national baseball player and current national golf coach Ned Norita, right, won a barbecue grill at the Super Bowl LVII watch party at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. Also in the photo is MARPAC resident manager Guy Pudney, left, and watch party host Brad Ruszala.

LEIGH GASES

Philadelphia Eagles fans R.J. and Werlly don their team's colors during Super Bowl Monday at the Saipan World Resort's Sunflower Room.

All roads led to Super Bowl watch parties on Saipan yesterday as the island's gridiron fanatics had their full—literally and figuratively—of Super Bowl LVII featuring the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles.

Over at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marketing and Communications manager Bea O'Malley said the watch party drew a total of 112 fans, which was much more than their advertised 80 capacity for the event.

"We are happy to share this event with all the football enthusiasts on Saipan. The day worldwide right now is the same—Super Bowl!" she said.

Brad Ruszala, the host of the Hyatt Super Bowl watch party who even wore Jim Kelly's No. 11 jersey during the event, said the over-capacity crowd at the Garapan landmark was simply electric.

"The crowd was great! Their enthusiasm was on par or better than any crowd I've seen for Super Monday. I feel bad for the Eagles fans who lost out on their celebration but they've got nothing to be sad about because their team was outstanding."

And talking about the Eagles' 38-35 loss that could be controversial or not, depending on what team you're rooting for, Ruszala shared his own perspective on the gutsy defensive holding penalty call.

"I didn't think it was controversial, at all. I think the only thing that made it look suspect was the Fox coverage that paused the play the second time the receiver was held. The first time was much more damning," he said.

Over at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, banquet manager Ann Zapanta said about 40 of the most diehard Chiefs and Eagles fans enjoyed the game at Charlie's Cabaret.

She said it may not have been the largest crowd the San Antonio hotel hosted for a Super Bowl watch party, but what they lacked in number they more than made up for by cheering loudly for their favorite teams.

PIC Saipan SEA manager Reymark Castro agreed with Zapata's assessment and then some.

"As a fan, I could not really focus much on the crowd energy. All I know is that I have witnessed a super close, intense battle between two champions. That got me speechless. There is no reason to even speak about anything with that close of a game in that big of a moment."

Castro also gave two thumbs up to PIC's superb chefs who whipped out one of the finest Super Bowl watch party fare this side of the Western Pacific.

"I tell you what's the other reason why I am not screaming, it's because of those big stuffed burgers in my mouth—OMG! So many surprises with this Super Bowl game, the halftime show was surprising, the intense close game was surprising, the turnaround that Patrick Mahomes did to get his team home even with his injury was surprising. The only thing that was not surprising was the comfort in watching, the food selections and the event prizes given away. That is always a guarantee from PIC and MARPAC. Today was a good day for football fans," he said.

MARK RABAGO

MARPAC Beverage and Tobacco manager James Lee, top right, poses with his staff at the Super Bowl LVII watch party at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

LEIGH GASES

A group of friends rooting for the Philadelphia Eagles watch the Super Bowl LVII in the Mari Bar at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan on Super Bowl Monday.

At the more centrally located venue of Saipan World Resort, the Sunflower Room was filled to the brim with gridiron fans as they also overflowed into the adjacent Oasis Lounge with another giant screen setup.

Majority of Super Bowl Monday goers were Eagles fans sporting their teams' colors, but there were a few rooting for the Chiefs as well. However, it was a friendly atmosphere as fans watched with their family and friends—some of whom played hooky from work and shied from the camera and blended in with the shadows of the dimly lit room.

This was a Monday with no blues as alcohol sponsored by MARPAC riled everyone up with each touchdown—the fans clamoring for more booze and more football. For $25 a ticket, it included a free Budweiser drink and for more drinks, their bucket of five cans was just $15.

It was clear from the crowd that the Eagles had more fans, as one said they will win because they will fly high above the head of the Chiefs and out of their grasp. But the young buck Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes had a few fans himself as a couple enjoying the show from the quieter Oasis Lounge said that he will bring the Chiefs the championship once again.

Mike Babauta, Saipan World Resort Sales and Marketing director, said that their annual Super Bowl show is back and better than ever for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, with over $1,000 worth of raffle prizes, along with World Resort room stays and buffets, and MARPAC products.

Babauta, a football and San Francisco 49ers fan himself, said that he is rooting for the Chiefs to win because they lost to the Eagles, but that "it is what it is."

Over at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Mari Bar, it had a more intimate atmosphere with cushy lounge chairs and four giant flat screen TV's on the bar's walls.

Football fans, most of whom were Eagles fans, took the time to enjoy some football, socialize, and guzzle on the delicious beverages and wolf down the freshly prepared breakfast and lunch menu.

Mantas, Lady Dolphins lead outrigger race

By LEIGH GASES
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LEIGH GASES

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays race to first place in the 500m finals of the boys division in the co-ed high school Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2022-2023 last Saturday at the Kilili Beach.

The Saipan Southern High School boys and the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins thrashed full force through the waters of Kilili Beach to first place in their respective divisions of the co-ed high school Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2022-2023 last Saturday.

The Manta Rays lead the boys division as they paddled like there's no tomorrow in both the 500m and the 1,000m races, sweeping both the preliminaries and the finals for a perfect 20 points, while in the girls division, the Lady Dolphins showed their superiority and teamwork with the paddles in the 1,000m as they garnered 18 points overall.

In the boys 500m finals, the Mantas left the Kagman High School Ayuyus and the Dolphins in the dust as they reached the finish flag in under 3 minutes at an impressive time of 02:55.660. The Dolphins came in second with 03:15.210, then the Ayuyus came in last with 03 31:880.

In the 1,000m finals, the Mantas clocked in first yet again with a time of 06:15.540; the Dolphins came in second with 06:33.210; and the Ayuyus came in last with 07:09.400.

The Dolphins were second in the boys division with 12 points, while the Ayuyus were third with 4 points.

Over in the girls 1,000m finals, the Lady Dolphins sped through the finish flag first with a time of 07:08.250, garnering 5 points. In the preliminary round before that, they also placed first with a time of 06:52.810, handing themselves 5 points as well.

A couple of seconds right behind the Lady Dolphins were Saipan Southern High School Lady Mantas with a time of 07:10.970, for a total of 3 points. Kagman

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White's 23 points helps Celtics past Grizzlies, 119-109

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Mahomes, Chiefs beat Eagles, 38-35

AP

Kansas City Chiefs place kicker Harrison Butker (7) kicks the game-winning field goal during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz.

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes was magical when the Kansas City Chiefs desperately needed him to pull off another Super Bowl comeback.

Playing on an injured ankle, Mahomes threw two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter and scrambled 26 yards on the go-ahead drive before Harrison Butker kicked a 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left to give the Chiefs a 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

The Chiefs won their second NFL title in four years and two-time NFL MVP Mahomes earned his second Super Bowl MVP award.

"I thought guys just embraced the moment," Mahomes said about rallying from a 10-point halftime deficit. "In that first half, we were playing and doing some good stuff, but I felt like the guys were getting consumed by everything around us."

Mahomes and Jalen Hurts excelled in the first Super Bowl matchup featuring two Black starting QBs. But Mahomes turned it up in

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Super Bowl MVP Mahomes rallies Chiefs to win on hurt ankle

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes and his ailing right ankle are headed for another Super Bowl victory parade.

After aggravating the sprained ankle he suffered three weeks ago, the All-Pro quarterback led the Kansas City Chiefs to a thrilling 38-35 come-from-behind victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, hoisting his second Lombardi Trophy and taking with it the game's MVP honor for the second time in his career.

Mahomes finished with 182 yards passing and three touchdowns, but he was especially brilliant on his hurt ankle in the second half: 13 of 14 for 93 yards and two touchdowns. The league's MVP also had 44 yards rushing, including his 26-yard sprint with just over

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AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) holds the trophy after their win against the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz.

Questionable late flag takes drama out of Super Bowl ending

AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) reacts after their loss against the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz.

By DAVID BRANDT
AP SPORTS WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—A questionable late penalty on Philadelphia Eagles cornerback James Bradberry with less than two minutes remaining meant that a scintillating Super Bowl 57 had a bit of an underwhelming finish.

Kansas City won its second Super Bowl in four years by beating the Eagles 38-35 on Sunday in Glendale, Arizona. It was an exciting back-and-forth game that saw the Chiefs claw back from a 10-point halftime deficit.

One of the few gripes for football fans — particularly Eagles fans — was the anticlimatic ending.

The Chiefs were driving and faced third-and-8 at the Eagles 15-yard line with 1:54

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